



Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

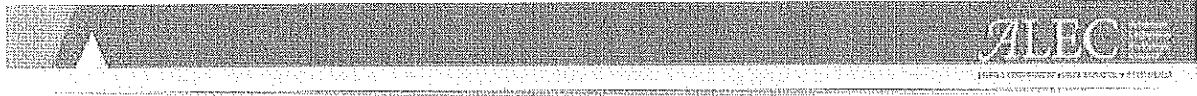
Your ALEC Digital Exchange 10/12/2017

1 message

American Legislative Exchange Council <ahackbarth@alec.org>
To: latoursm@gmail.com

Thu, Oct 12, 2017 at 5:09 PM

To view this email as a web page, go [here](#).



Digital Exchange - October 12, 2017

Facebook



Twitter

Everything You Want to Know About SALT (But Were Afraid to Ask)

The ALEC Center for State and Fiscal Reform will be holding a conference call on **Wednesday , October 18** to educate legislators and members on the hotly debated SALT (State and Local Tax) deduction, and explain our position on this complicated area of the tax code.

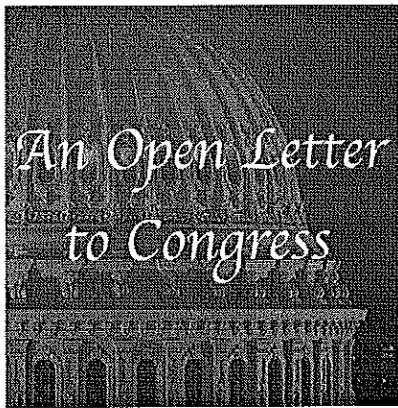
Our tax team has been leading the charge to eliminate state and local tax deductions as part of a comprehensive tax reform package. Moderating the call will be our chief economist, Jonathan Williams.

[Register for the Call](#)

[Sign the SALT Letter](#)

Congress Needs to Hear From You

Join more than 100 state and local officials on the ALEC Letter to Congress that supports eliminating the State and Local Tax (SALT) deduction. Your voice is crucial, because you share constituents with your Congressional delegations. **Help give Congress the courage to eliminate the SALT deduction, free fiscally responsible states from subsidizing high-tax states, and encourage much needed belt-tightening in bloated state budgets.**



Add your voice to the call for SALT deduction repeal by clicking below.

[Sign the Letter](#)

Member Focus

MO Legislator Calls on ALEC to Help End Taxpayer-Funded Stadiums

Erica York | American Legislative Exchange Council



Rep. Nate Walker calls on ALEC to help end taxpayer-funded stadiums nationwide. "We have invested a lot of money in the NFL and we are not getting a good return on our investment."

[Read the Full Article](#)

ALEC Staff Interview

Jonathan Williams Joins the Tim Jones Radio Show

The Tim Jones Show | *FM NewsTalk 97.1*



Chief Economist and Vice President of the ALEC Center for State Fiscal Reform Jonathan Williams joined the *Tim Jones Radio Show* in St. Louis, Missouri this past weekend to discuss tax policy and reform.

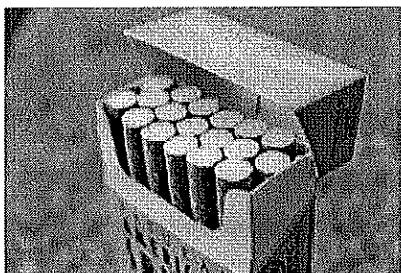
[Watch Interview](#)

Expert Insight

Tobacco Taxes Aren't the Answer For South Dakota

Erica York | *The Argus Leader*

South Dakota taxpayers may be voting on a hefty tobacco tax increase in November 2018 if the ballot measure receives enough signatures by the state's Nov. 6, 2017, deadline. However, state cigarette taxes like this one can be economically harmful and do not serve as a stable source of funding.


[Read Article](#)

Legislator of the Week

Keeping Ohio Competitive

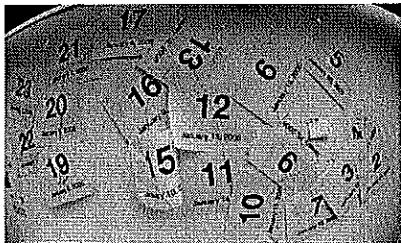


This week, ALEC and FreedomWorks introduce Ohio State Representative **Rob McColley** from the Buckeye state's 81st district. McColley represents Putnam, Henry and Williams counties as well as part of Fulton county. In his second term in the Ohio House, McColley serves as the Assistant Majority Whip.

[Read Article](#)

Important SNPS Deadlines

Upcoming Policy Submission Deadlines



- October 23, 2017: 45-Day Policy Submission Deadline. If you would like to introduce new model policy, please email your Taskforce Director the draft language by October 23.

- November 2, 2017: 35-Day Notice Published. This will contain a draft of the Task Force Meeting Agendas and model policies scheduled for consideration and review at the Task Force Meeting.

States and Nation Policy Summit '17

Early Bird Registration Ends November 9



Early Bird registration for SNPS ends November 9th. You do not want to miss out on our exciting line-up of speakers including Larry Kudlow, Steve Moore, Steve Forbes and Art Laffer.

Hotel rooms are going quickly if you want to extend your stay in the "Music City."

[Register Here](#)



Facebook



Twitter



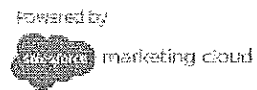
LinkedIn



YouTube

This email was sent to: latoursm@gmail.com

This email was sent by: American Legislative Exchange Council
2900 Crystal Drive, Suite 600 Arlington, VA 22202 United States



We respect your right to privacy - [view our policy](#)

[Manage Subscriptions](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)



Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

Ohio Media Clips, Monday, October 16

1 message

Gongwer News Service <gongwerreports@gongwer-oh.com>
To: sml@sarahlatourette.com

Mon, Oct 16, 2017 at 8:29 AM

[MEDIA CLIPS](#)[View in a browser](#)[News](#) [Bill Tracking](#) [Legislation](#)

NEWS

Ohio governor says Trump health care move will hurt people (Associated Press, 10/16/2017)

UAW backs Sen. Brown after some unions left Dems in 2016 (Associated Press, 10/16/2017)

Jim Renacci worked with pro-Trump group on website attacking Jon Husted (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 10/16/2017)

Schools add "social and emotional" skills to reading, writing, arithmetic (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 10/16/2017)

What Trump's decision to Obamacare means for you, insurers and Congress (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 10/16/2017)

20 years after welfare reform, are Ohio's poor any better off? (Columbus Dispatch, 10/16/2017)

Bill seeks changes in Ohio testing, teacher evals, school mandates (Columbus Dispatch, 10/16/2017)

If tech gadgets are required, should Ohio schools charge fees? (Columbus Dispatch, 10/16/2017)

Kasich assails both Democrats and Trump on Obamacare (Columbus Dispatch, 10/16/2017)

Little has happened in 2 months since Trump declared opioid crisis an emergency (Columbus Dispatch, 10/16/2017)

Sherrod Brown gets UAW nod in re-election bid (Columbus Dispatch, 10/16/2017)

The mercurial man behind state Issue 2 (Columbus Dispatch, 10/16/2017)

Kasich criticizes President Trump actions on health care as 'outrageous' (Dayton Daily News, 10/16/2017)

Ohio may allow you to set off fireworks any time of day (Dayton Daily News, 10/16/2017)

Ohio may deny benefits to undocumented workers hurt on the job (Dayton Daily News, 10/16/2017)

What Ohio lawmakers are saying about the Iran nuclear deal (Dayton Daily News, 10/16/2017)

Victims' rights ballot issue could hike costs for counties, courts (Toledo Blade, 10/16/2017)

EDITORIALS

Beacon Journal editorial board: Why the Clean Power Plan matters (Akron Beacon Journal, 10/16/2017)

Ohio Supreme Court races absolutely matter, even if voters often skip them: Thomas Suddes (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 10/16/2017)

Will politicians provide clarity on Issue 2? Probably not. (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 10/16/2017)

Editorial: Way to kick 'em while they're down (Columbus Dispatch, 10/16/2017)

Should Ohioans support the Drug Price Relief Act? No (Columbus Dispatch, 10/16/2017)

Against court supremacy (Toledo Blade, 10/16/2017)

Ohio farmers cannot do it alone (Toledo Blade, 10/16/2017)

7/24/2018

Gmail - Ohio Media Clips, Monday, October 16

This message is provided to you as part of your subscription to Gongwer News Service.

Please send all correspondence to gongwer@gongwer-oh.com. This mailbox is not regularly monitored.

[View as a Web Page](#)

Copyright 2017, Gongwer News Service/Ohio

17 S. High St., Suite 630, Columbus OH 43215

All Rights Reserved. This message and any attachments may not be forwarded or reproduced without express permission from Gongwer News Service.

[unsubscribe](#)



Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

Ohio Media Clips, Tuesday, October 17

1 message

Gongwer News Service <gongwerreports@gongwer-oh.com>
To: sml@sarahlatourette.com

Tue, Oct 17, 2017 at 8:51 AM

[MEDIA CLIPS](#)[View in a browser](#)[News](#) [Bill Tracking](#) [Legislation](#)

NEWS

GOP lawmaker ends her bid to become Ohio secretary of state
(Associated Press, 10/17/2017)

Ohio Turnpike plans alerts system for tech-connected cars (Associated Press, 10/17/2017)

Q and A: Alt-right leader Richard Spencer at UC (Cincinnati Enquirer, 10/17/2017)

Dorothy Pelanda ends campaign to become Ohio's secretary of state
(Cleveland Plain Dealer, 10/17/2017)

Issue 2 FAQ: What you need to know before you vote (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 10/17/2017)

Bill seeks changes in Ohio testing, teacher evals, school mandates
(Columbus Dispatch, 10/17/2017)

Curbs on payday loans a tough sell to Ohio lawmakers (Columbus Dispatch, 10/17/2017)

Ohio lawmakers loading campaign coffers in preparation for 2018
(Columbus Dispatch, 10/17/2017)

Pelanda drops from Secretary of State race, leaving 1 Republican
(Columbus Dispatch, 10/17/2017)

Records regarding Mandel commercials hard to come by (Columbus Dispatch, 10/17/2017)

If money wins elections, Ohio's congressional races are no contest (Dayton Daily News, 10/17/2017)

Ohio income tax collection change 'a solution in search of a problem' (Dayton Daily News, 10/17/2017)

Portman pushes tax reform with Springfield business leaders (Dayton Daily News, 10/17/2017)

Teens may see major changes to driving laws in Ohio (Dayton Daily News, 10/17/2017)

What's at stake? State's largest pension system considers benefit cuts (Dayton Daily News, 10/17/2017)

Michigan groups join to communicate about Lake Erie (Toledo Blade, 10/17/2017)

One left standing in GOP contest for secretary of state (Toledo Blade, 10/17/2017)

Task force visits 180th Fighter Wing (Toledo Blade, 10/17/2017)

UAW backs Sen. Brown after some unions left Dems in 2016 (Youngstown Vindicator, 10/17/2017)

EDITORIALS

Beacon Journal editorial board: Mary Taylor, the governor and other friends of small business (Akron Beacon Journal, 10/17/2017)

Editorial: Stop tethering dogs; rein in owners (Columbus Dispatch, 10/17/2017)

We need to fix the infant mortality problem (Toledo Blade, 10/17/2017)

This message is provided to you as part of your subscription to Gongwer News Service.

Please send all correspondence to gongwer@gongwer-oh.com. This mailbox is not regularly monitored.

[View as a Web Page](#)

Copyright 2017, Gongwer News Service/Ohio
17 S. High St., Suite 630, Columbus OH 43215

All Rights Reserved. This message and any attachments may not be forwarded or reproduced without express permission from Gongwer News Service.

[unsubscribe](#)



Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

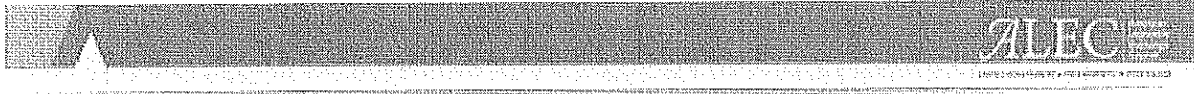
Your ALEC Events and Education Update 10/17/2017

1 message

American Legislative Exchange Council <ahackbarth@alec.org>
To: latoursm@gmail.com

Tue, Oct 17, 2017 at 3:00 PM

To view this email as a web page, go here.



Events & Education - October 17, 2017



Facebook



Twitter

Tomorrow: The Center for State Fiscal Reform Constituent Call



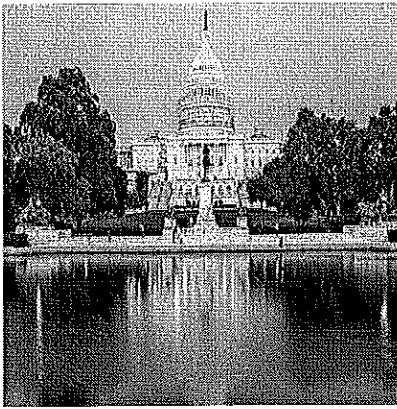
The ALEC Center for State and Fiscal Reform will hold a conference call for members **tomorrow, October 18 at 3:30 PM ET** to educate legislators and members on the hotly debated SALT (State and Local Tax) deduction, and explain the ALEC position on this complicated area of the tax code.

The tax team has been working with leaders on Capitol Hill and the Trump administration to bring research and analysis to the federal tax reform debate. Leading the call is ALEC Chief Economist and Vice President of the Center for State Fiscal Reform Jonathan Williams. He will be joined by Center Director Joel Griffith and Center Chairman Representative Ken Weyler of New Hampshire.

[Register for the Call](#)

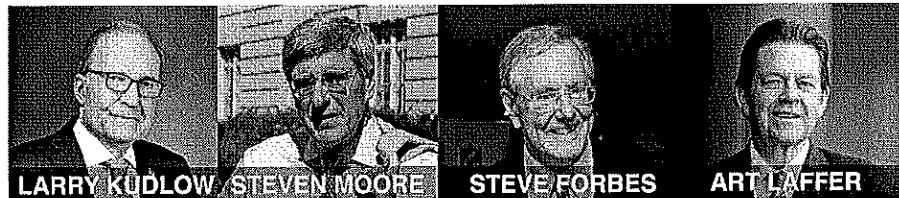
Don't Miss the ALEC-Federal Coalition Partners Conference Call

Join the ALEC-Federal Coalition Partners Call - **Friday, October 20 at 3:00 PM ET**. You don't want to miss this opportunity to hear directly from the U.S. House, Senate and White House coalition teams as they bring you timely updates from Capitol Hill.


[Register for the Call](#)

States and Nation Policy Summit '17

Early Bird Registration Ends November 9



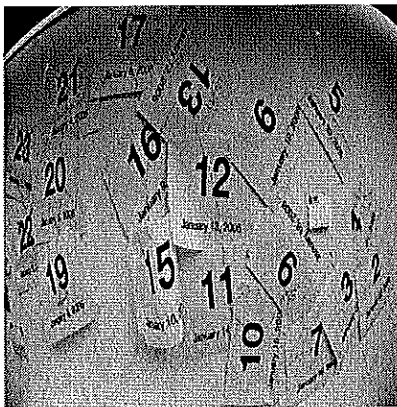
Early Bird registration for SNPS ends November 9. You do not want to miss out on our exciting line up of speakers including Larry Kudlow, Steve Moore, Steve Forbes and Art Laffer.

Hotel rooms are going quickly if you want to extend your stay in the "Music City."

[Register Here](#)

Important SNPS Deadlines

Policy Submission Deadlines



- October 23, 2017: **45-Day Policy Submission Deadline.** If you would like to introduce new model policy, please email your Taskforce Director the draft language by October 23.

- November 2, 2017: **35-Day Notice Published.** This will contain a draft of Task Force Meeting Agendas and model policies scheduled for consideration and review at the Task Force Meeting.



Facebook



Twitter



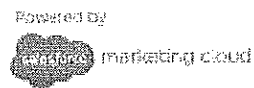
LinkedIn



YouTube

This email was sent to: latoursm@gmail.com

This email was sent by: American Legislative Exchange Council
2900 Crystal Drive, Suite 600 Arlington, VA 22202 United States



We respect your right to privacy - [view our policy](#)

[Manage Subscriptions](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)



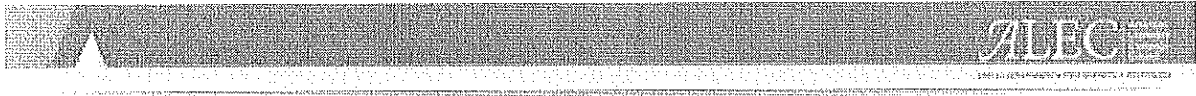
Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

Your ALEC Digital Exchange 10/20/2017

1 message

American Legislative Exchange Council <ahackbarth@alec.org>
To: latoursm@gmail.com

Thu, Oct 19, 2017 at 3:30 PM

To view this email as a web page, go [here](#).

Digital Exchange - October 20, 2017

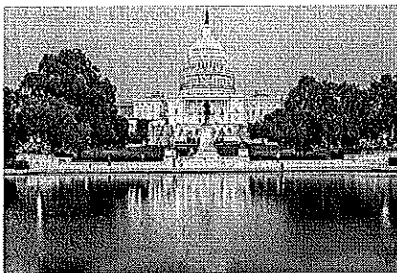


Facebook



Twitter

Tomorrow: ALEC - Federal Coalition Partners Conference Call



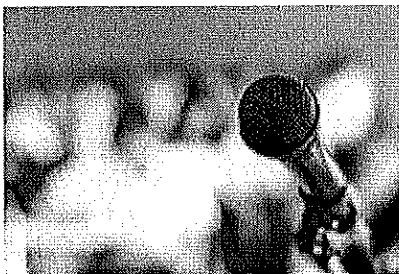
Tomorrow the ALEC - Federal Coalition Partners are hosting a call with representatives from the U.S. House, Senate and White House coalition teams. They will bring you an up to date report on what is going on around Capitol Hill and the White House.

The call will take place Friday, October 20 at 3 p.m. ET.

[Register for the Call](#)

Tax Reform Update

ALEC and SALT In the News



On Monday, Vice President of the Center for State Fiscal Reform and ALEC Chief Economist Jonathan Williams, Director for the Center for State Fiscal Reform Joel Griffith and Senator Jim Buck of Indiana briefed the press on the importance of eliminating the state and local tax deduction from the tax code. Below is some of the media coverage we received.

Washington Examiner: [State, Local Conservative Legislators Tell GOP to Kill State Tax Deduction](#)

Washington Free Beacon: [Economist Says Eliminating State and Local Tax Deduction Helps Lower Taxes by \\$1 Trillion](#)

Townhall: [President Trump Looks to Eliminate the SALT Deduction](#)

State and Local Tax Deduction

Reagan's Argument for Eliminating the State and Local Tax Deduction

Jim Geraghty | National Review



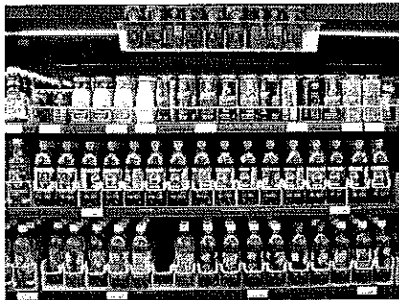
"The Reagan argument is compelling, but it basically contends that those who find their cumulative level of federal, state, and local taxation unbearable should move to different states. That may work as economic theory, but many Americans won't find that easy to do for a variety of reasons – jobs, families, roots, etc. And if these frustrated taxpayers did move from these blue states to red states, this policy change would basically drain the blue states of the voters most concerned about taxes."

[Read More](#)

Expert Opinion

Support for Soda Tax Fizzles in Cook County

Christine Smith | Center for State Fiscal Reform



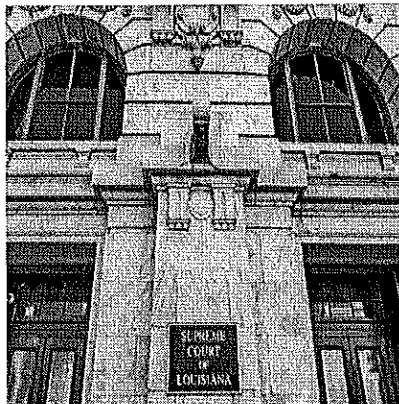
Tax-and-spend proponents have a serious problem when even the greater Chicagoland area, long known as a city that soaks taxpayers, heeds citizen uproar and moves to repeal a tax. Thankfully, most individuals on the Board of Commissioners are backtracking after increasingly apparent constituent disapproval, voting 15-2 to repeal the harmful tax. A nearly 87 percent disapproval rate is impossible to argue with. ALEC applauds this bipartisan decision and is hopeful other municipalities will follow suit.

[Read More](#)

Expert Opinion

Louisiana Supreme Court Finds Sentence of Life Without Parole For Juvenile Unconstitutional

Ronald J. Lampard | Director, Criminal Justice Reform Task Force

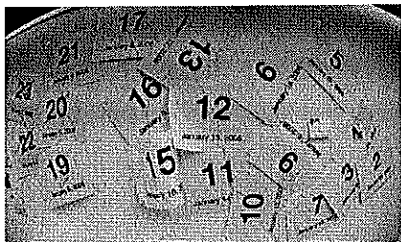


By the age of 17, Thayer Green had two felony convictions as well as convictions for home invasion, simple robbery, and second-degree battery. All are defined as crimes of violence under Louisiana law. Thayer Green challenged his life sentence, arguing that it was unconstitutional.

[Read More](#)

45 Day Policy Deadline is Approaching

Policy Submission Deadlines

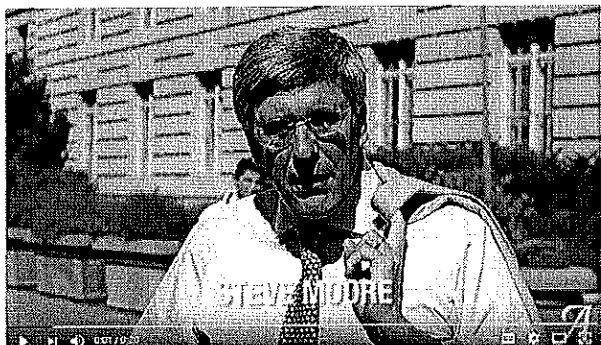


- **October 23, 2017:** 45-Day Policy Submission Deadline. If you would like to introduce new model policy, please email your Taskforce Director the draft language by October 23.

- **November 2, 2017:** 35-Day Notice Published. This will contain a draft of the Task Force Meeting Agendas and model policies scheduled for consideration and review at the Task Force Meeting.

States and Nation Policy Summit '17

Economist Steve Moore Invites You to Nashville



[View Video](#)

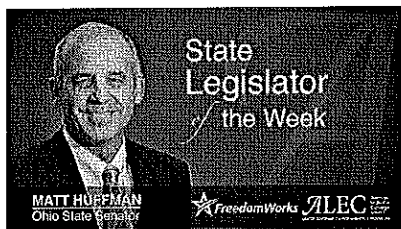


Steve Moore is going to be at our States and Nation Policy Summit. Will you?

Early bird registration ends November 9. Sign up now to save!

[Register for SNPS](#)

School Choice for Every Buckeye Student



This week, ALEC and FreedomWorks introduce Ohio State Senator Matt Huffman. Huffman represents the Buckeye state's 12th district. He is a vocal advocate of education reform, saying "I am extremely proud of providing true school choice for every student in Ohio, including smooth transferability of funds and a robust set of options regardless of geography and family situation."

[Read More](#)



Facebook



Twitter



LinkedIn



YouTube

This email was sent to: latoursm@gmail.com

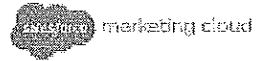
This email was sent by: American Legislative Exchange Council

7/25/2018

Gmail - Your ALEC Digital Exchange 10/20/2017

2900 Crystal Drive, Suite 600 Arlington, VA 22202 United States

Powered by



marketing cloud

We respect your right to privacy - [view our policy](#)

[Manage Subscriptions](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)



Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

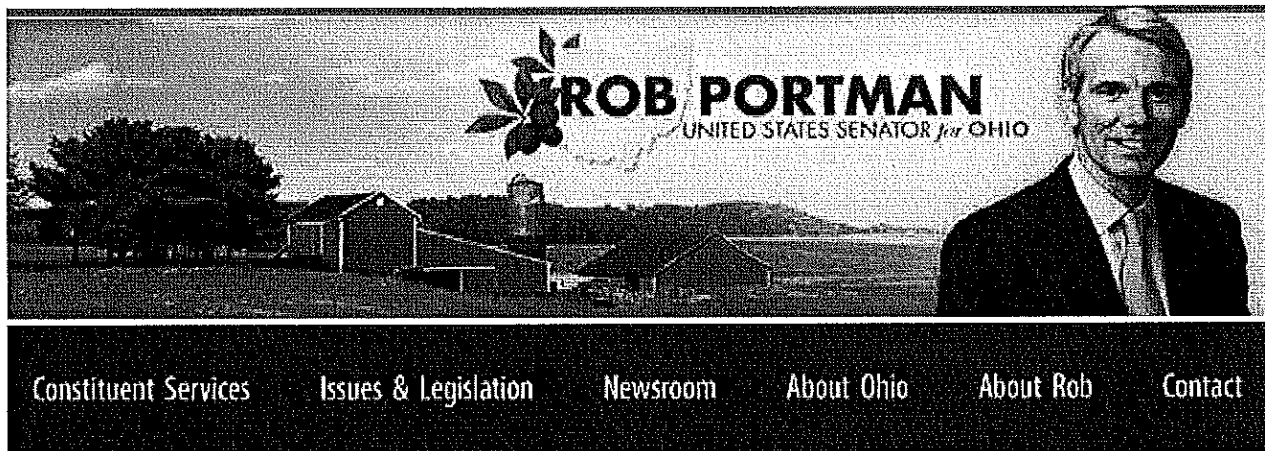
Rob's Rundown: Week of October 15-20, 2017

1 message

Senator Rob Portman <no_reply@portman.senate.gov>

To: latoursm@gmail.com

Fri, Oct 20, 2017 at 9:29 PM



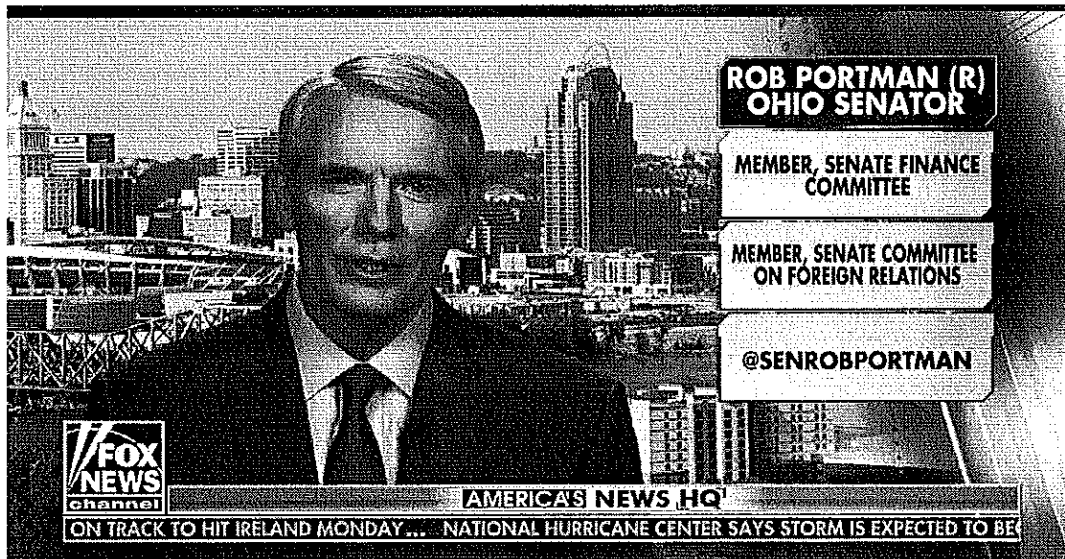
After touring five auto manufacturing plants and meeting with Ohio's auto workers last week about the need for comprehensive tax reform, Senator Portman hosted a tax reform roundtable in Springfield on Monday and then returned to Washington to continue his leadership role on this issue. Portman has been a leader in the efforts to simplify and reform our broken tax code to help create more jobs, boost wages, and give our economy a shot in the arm, and on Thursday the Senate passed a budget that paves a clear path towards once-in-a-generation tax reform. In addition to focusing on tax reform this week, Senator Portman also saw his legislation to improve public health programs for early detection, diagnosis, and treatment of hearing loss in newborns, infants, and young children signed into law, continued to gain support for his bipartisan *Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act*, and more. For a more in depth look at Senator Portman's week, please see the following:

Sunday, October 15

On Fox News, Portman Discusses How Tax Reform Will Create Jobs, Increase Wages, Boost Middle Class

During an interview on Fox News, Portman discussed how tax reform will help create more jobs and better jobs, increase wages, and boost the middle class. Portman has been vocal about the need to simplify and reform our broken tax code. This year, Portman has hosted tax reform roundtables in Columbus with local business leaders, in Dayton with the Dayton Chamber of Commerce, in Cleveland with the Greater Cleveland Partnership, and in Cincinnati with the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber. He is hosting another tax reform roundtable with the Springfield Chamber of Commerce and local business leaders today.

Excerpts of the interview can be found [here](#) and a video can be found [here](#).



Monday, October 16

In Springfield, Portman Hosts Tax Reform Roundtable

U.S. Senator Rob Portman (R-OH) hosted a roundtable discussion with the Springfield Chamber of Commerce and local business leaders to receive input on Congress' effort to simplify and reform our tax system in a way that creates more jobs, increases wages, and encourages more investment in America.

"From the auto workers I met with across Ohio last week, to business leaders here in Springfield, and workers and families throughout our state, I have heard about how our tax code is getting in the way of hiring more workers, boosting wages, and investing here in Ohio. That is because our tax code is too burdensome, too complicated, and decades out of date. Congress must act quickly to reform the tax code to help create jobs and raise wages for Ohio workers," **Senator Portman said.** *"Instead of encouraging our companies to take jobs and investments overseas and making it easier for foreign corporations to buy up our companies, we should be working to keep jobs here and give American workers a competitive advantage. I'll continue to work with my colleagues in the United States Senate to deliver for workers here in Springfield and across Ohio who deserve a better tax system."*

Last Congress, three Portman-authored bills designed to help in this effort to stop IRS abuses were signed into law by then-President Barack Obama. Portman has been named a "Hero of Main Street" and "Fiscal Hero" for his work on these issues.

Photos of the event can be found [here](#).

Wednesday, October 18

Portman Statement on the White House Tax Reform Meeting With Senate Finance Committee Members

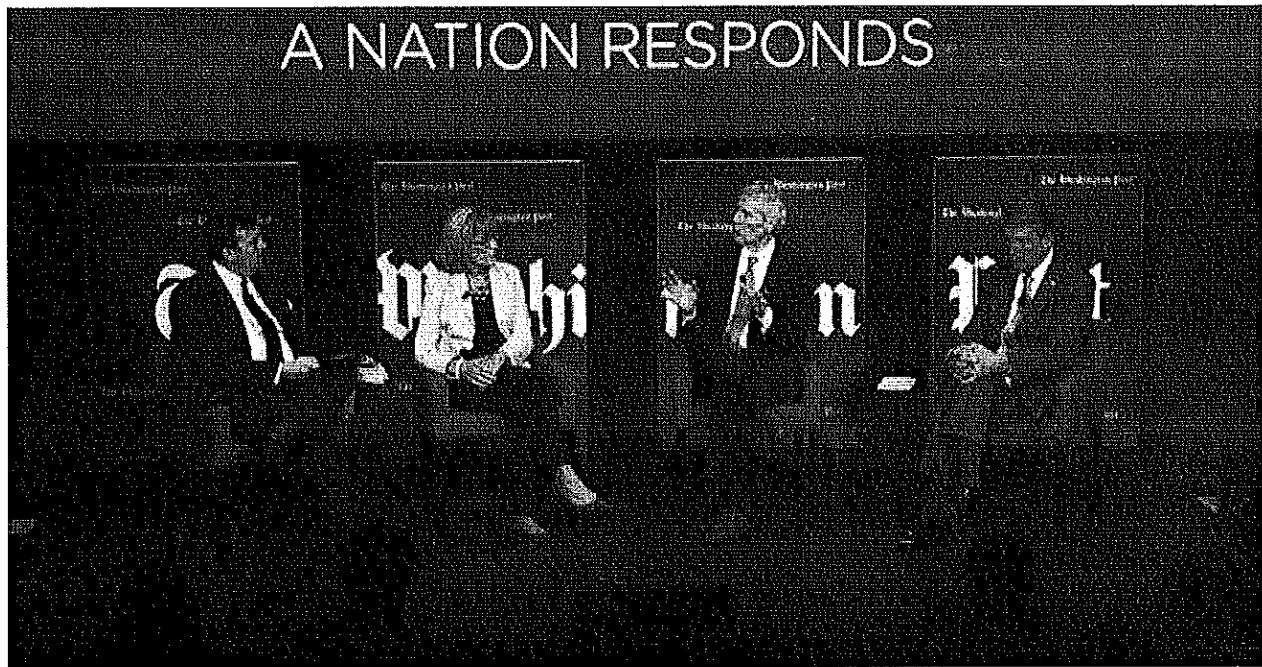
Portman released the following statement after joining his bipartisan colleagues on the Senate Finance Committee for a meeting at the White House regarding tax reform:

"We had a productive meeting today at the White House discussing tax reform. I'm pleased that President Trump and the White House continue to engage both Republicans and Democrats on the need for comprehensive tax reform. We all agreed tax reform should focus on helping middle-class families, and that's what our plan does. Our tax reform framework will help create more jobs, increase wages, and encourage more investment and opportunities in America. I remain optimistic that, by working together, we can simplify and reform our outdated tax code on behalf of middle-class families and small businesses."

Portman Discusses Opioid Crisis at Washington Post Forum, Urges Action on STOP Act

Portman discussed America's opioid epidemic and the actions Congress is taking to address this crisis at a forum hosted by *The Washington Post* with Senators Maggie Hassan (D-NH) and Joe Manchin (D-WV) on Wednesday. Portman has been a national leader in the fight against the opioid epidemic. Last year, his bipartisan *Comprehensive Addiction & Recovery Act* (CARA) was signed-into-law. Now, he is pressing for action on his bipartisan *Synthetics Trafficking & Overdose Prevention (STOP) Act*, legislation designed to help stop dangerous synthetic drugs like fentanyl and carfentanil from being shipped through our borders to drug traffickers here in the United States.

Excerpts of his remarks can be found [here](#) and a video can be found [here](#).



Portman, Brown Reintroduce Bipartisan Legislation to Help Seniors Address Rising Healthcare Costs

Senators Portman, Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), and Bill Nelson (D-FL), reintroduced bipartisan legislation to help seniors with rising healthcare costs by maintaining the threshold to claim the medical expense tax deduction for seniors at the current rate of 7.5 percent of income for an additional two years. The *Seniors Tax Hike Prevention Act* would prevent the implementation of a higher tax threshold for seniors claiming medical cost deductions on their taxes. The higher threshold is set to take effect next tax filing season and could result in a higher tax bill for seniors.

"The rising cost of health care is a critical issue for every American, but especially for seniors who live on fixed incomes," Portman stated. "This bill provides important tax relief to help offset many of costly medical expenses that seniors are faced with."

AARP has endorsed the legislation, saying the bill would help older Americans facing high healthcare costs.

"AARP supports this bipartisan bill that would help older Americans who face high health care costs," said AARP CEO Jo Ann Jenkins. "We hope to see Congress follow the lead of Senators Brown and Portman by enacting legislation to prevent a tax hike on seniors with high medical costs."

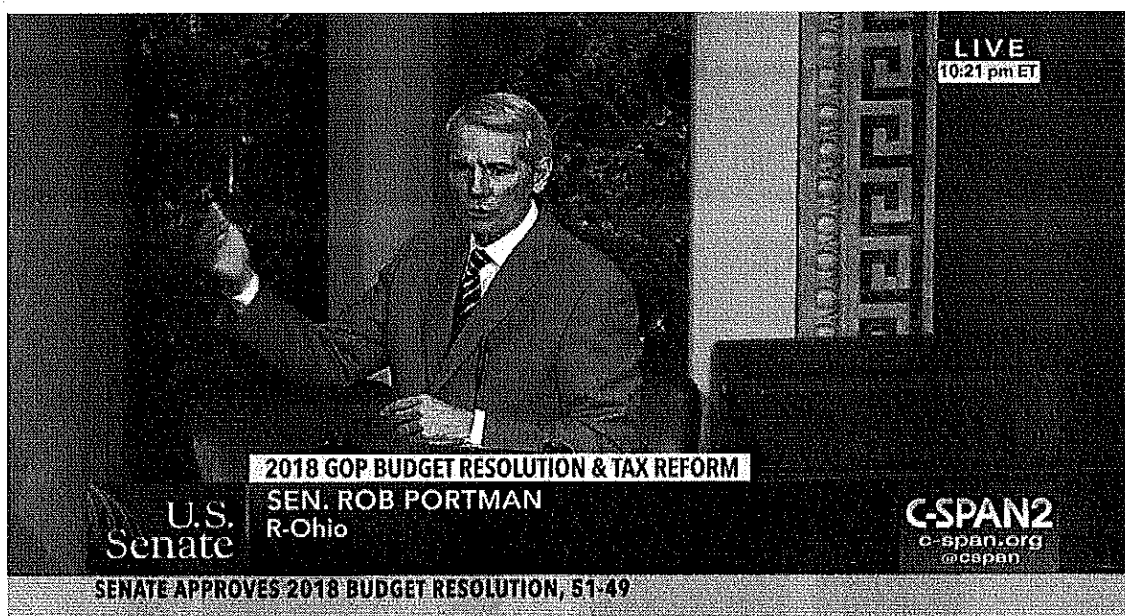
Thursday, October 19

Portman on Senate Floor: Budget Provides Once-in-a-Generation Opportunity to Reform our Broken Tax Code

In a speech on the Senate floor Thursday night, Portman discussed the opportunity to reform our outdated tax code to ease the burden on the middle class, increase jobs and wages for workers, and encourages jobs and investment in America, not overseas. Senator Portman said, in part: *"Nothing is*

more important than fixing this broken tax code if we're going to see the kind of economic growth and improvement in wages that we all hope for."

Transcript of his remarks can be found [here](#) and a video can be found [here](#).



Portman Meets with DHS Secretary Nominee Kirstjen Nielsen, Discusses STOP Act, National Security

Portman, a member of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, met Wednesday afternoon with President Donald Trump's nominee to be Department of Homeland Security Secretary, Kirstjen Nielsen. Portman and Nielsen discussed the need to stop the flow of drugs across our borders via the United States Postal Service and how the bipartisan *Synthetic Trafficking & Overdose Prevention (STOP) Act*, legislation designed to help stop dangerous synthetic drugs like fentanyl and carfentanil from being shipped through our borders to drug traffickers here in the United States, will help. Portman and Nielsen also discussed other challenges facing the department, such as counterterrorism efforts, cybersecurity, hurricane relief efforts, and more.

"I enjoyed meeting with Kirstjen Nielsen and discussing the importance of the Department of Homeland Security's role in keeping drugs out of communities in Ohio and around the country. We also discussed the importance of the STOP Act to help turn the tide of addiction, as well as other issues critical to the security of our homeland. I look forward to supporting her nomination. The Senate should confirm her as soon as possible and get her on the job."

Portman Statement on Congressman Pat Tiberi's Announcement

Portman released the following statement after Congressman Pat Tiberi (R-OH) announced he will step down from his role in the House of Representatives:

"Pat Tiberi is a dedicated public servant and a good man. I had the privilege of working with Pat in the House of Representatives, and I am proud to call him a close friend. He has dedicated his life to bettering the lives of Ohioans and the issues that impact them most, and he has delivered results on behalf his constituents. I look forward to working with Pat over the next several months to pass pro-growth tax reform that will create more jobs and increase wages for middle-class families. I wish Pat, his wife Denice, and their entire family all the best as he embarks on his new journey leading the Ohio Business Roundtable."

Portman, Brown Seek Trade Relief for Ohio Whirlpool Workers

Senators Portman and Brown successfully urged the International Trade Commission (ITC) to rule that workers at Whirlpool's Clyde, OH plant had been hurt by unfair washing machine imports by Samsung and LG. Now, as the ITC meets to consider potential relief, the Senators are asking ITC to make a strong recommendation to President Trump that will provide broad relief for the U.S. washing machine industry in response to the pattern of violations by companies like LG and Samsung.

"We urge you to fully enforce U.S. trade law and recommend strong trade remedies. Doing so will ensure that workers and manufacturers in our state have an opportunity to compete within a fair domestic marketplace," said the Senators in a letter sent this week ahead of today's ITC meeting. "More than 3,000 of Whirlpool's employees work in Clyde, Ohio, where they make washing machines. These workers' livelihoods are directly threatened by the nefarious practices of Samsung and LG, and we must continue to fight back against these foreign competitors who are attempting to cheat our trade system."

The case sought broad relief for the U.S. washing machine industry in response to the pattern of violations by companies like LG and Samsung who've repeatedly exported their washers to the U.S. at unfair prices. Today, ITC is holding a hearing to determine whether remedies should be put in place to give the domestic industry the relief they need from washer imports. They will make a final decision on the remedies next month and make a recommendation on those remedies to the President in December.

Portman and Brown both testified at ITC on behalf of Whirlpool, and urged ITC to take make this positive ruling.

Since 2012, Ohio's Senators have fought against these unfair trade practices that have harmed Whirlpool, and most recently helped secure relief in a case against washing machine imports from China.

Portman and Brown's *Leveling the Playing Field Act* pass was signed into law in June 2015, restoring strength to antidumping and countervailing duty statutes that allow businesses and workers in the United States to petition the Commerce Department and the ITC when foreign producers sell goods in the U.S. below market price or receive illegal subsidies. The law led to key wins for Ohio steel companies in major trade cases last year on cold-rolled, hot-rolled, and corrosion-resistant steel, including U.S. Steel, Nucor, ArcelorMittal, and AK Steel, which together employ more than 8,200 Ohio workers.

Read the full letter below here.

President Signs Portman-Kaine Bill to Promote Early Hearing Detection in Newborns, Infants & Young Children

Senators Portman and Tim Kaine (D-VA) announced that President Trump signed their bipartisan *Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Act*, into law. The law reauthorizes current research and improve public health programs for early detection, diagnosis, and treatment of hearing loss in newborns, infants, and young children.

"Early hearing detection is critical because children with hearing loss often fall behind their peers in speech development, cognitive skills, and social skills," said Portman. "This measure represents an important step towards improving early hearing detection and intervention for newborns, infants, and young children, and I'm pleased that President Trump has signed this legislation into law."

NOTE: The *Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Act* reauthorizes current research and public health activities related to early detection, diagnosis, and treatment of hearing loss in newborns and infants. In addition, to ensure the continued success of existing early hearing detection and intervention programs, the bill makes a number of key improvements. Specifically, this bill expands early hearing detection and intervention programs to include young children, improves access to appropriate follow-up and intervention services when hearing loss is identified, and clarifies the roles of the Centers for Disease Control and the Health Resources and Services Administration. Specifically, this legislation:

For more information about the bill go here.

New Video Highlights Portman's Ohio Auto Manufacturing Jobs Tour

Portman released a video highlighting his Ohio Auto Manufacturing Jobs Tour, during which he covered more than 700 miles crossing Ohio over three days. During the tour, which was highlighted across Ohio, he learned more about recent auto investments into Ohio, raised awareness for the

economic impact of the automotive industry in our state, and discussed how tax reform will benefit auto manufacturers. Portman, who is Co-Chair of the Senate Auto Caucus, visited Ford's Sharonville Transmission Plant, the General Motors Parma Metal Center, the General Motors Toledo Transmission Plant, the Fiat Chrysler US Toledo Assembly Complex, and the Honda of America Manufacturing Plant in Marysville. Portman released the following statement:

"Ohio has the best auto workers in the world, and we're one of the top states in the country in terms of auto manufacturing. After crisscrossing the state and seeing our auto manufacturers at work, it's easy to see why auto companies are investing in Ohio. Unfortunately, our auto workers are fighting with one arm tied behind their back because we have an outdated and burdensome tax code. Congress must act with urgency to fix our broken tax code and give our economy a shot in the arm. When given a level playing field, American businesses and workers like the auto workers I met with across Ohio can compete and win with anyone. Our plan to simplify and reform our broken tax code will help them succeed."



Portman, Blumenthal Welcome National Urban League Endorsement of Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act

Senators Portman and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) welcomed the support of the National Urban League for the *Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act* (S. 1693), bipartisan legislation to help trafficking survivors get the justice they deserve and hold accountable websites that knowingly facilitate online sex trafficking. They issued the following joint statement:

"The National Urban League is dedicated to promoting civil rights, economic empowerment and justice on behalf of African Americans, and we are pleased to receive its support for this common-sense, bipartisan bill. We know that the horrific crime of sex trafficking disproportionately impacts African Americans. We have a responsibility to hold online sex traffickers accountable and ensure that trafficking survivors can get the justice they deserve. This narrowly-crafted bill would accomplish that goal. We believe the Senate must act on this bill."

Their letter can be found [here](#).

On Social Media



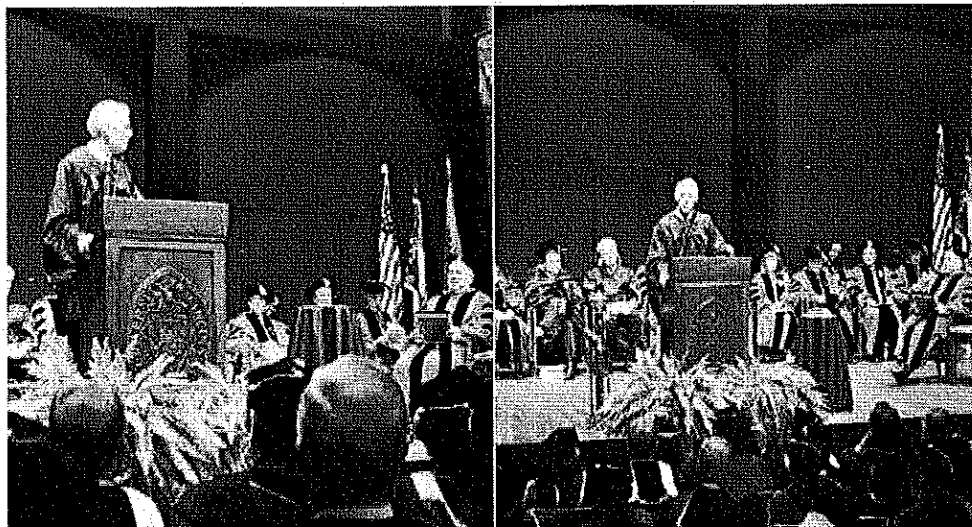
Rob Portman @senrobportman · Oct 18

Thx to all those who came to my #Buckeye coffee this morning to discuss what's important to them. Good discussion on #taxreform, PR & more



Rob Portman @senrobportman · 4m

The University of Cincinnati is in good hands! Proud to take part in the inauguration of @Prez_Pinto as the 30th @uofcincy president.





Rob Portman @senrobportman · Oct 18

Fentanyl, now killing more ppl in #Ohio than heroin, is coming in from places like #China. #STOPAct is needed now:



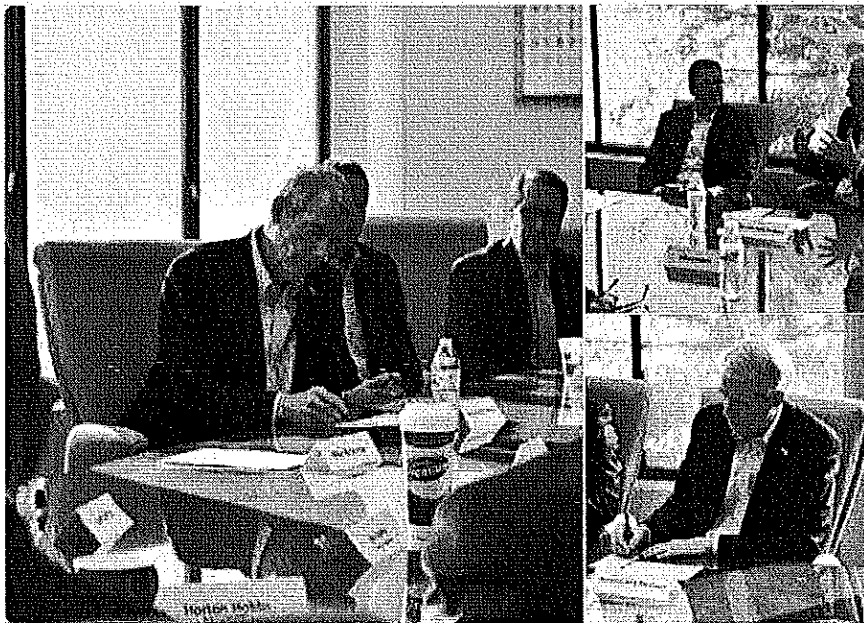
Sens. Maggie Hassan, Joe Manchin and Rob Portman respond to Am...

Sen. Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.), Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) and Sen. Rob Portman (R-Ohio), three of Capitol Hill's leading voices on this issue, disc...
washingtonpost.com



Rob Portman @senrobportman · Oct 16

Our tax code is broken. At a roundtable in Springfield, #Ohio today, I heard from business leaders who say #taxreform will help create #jobs





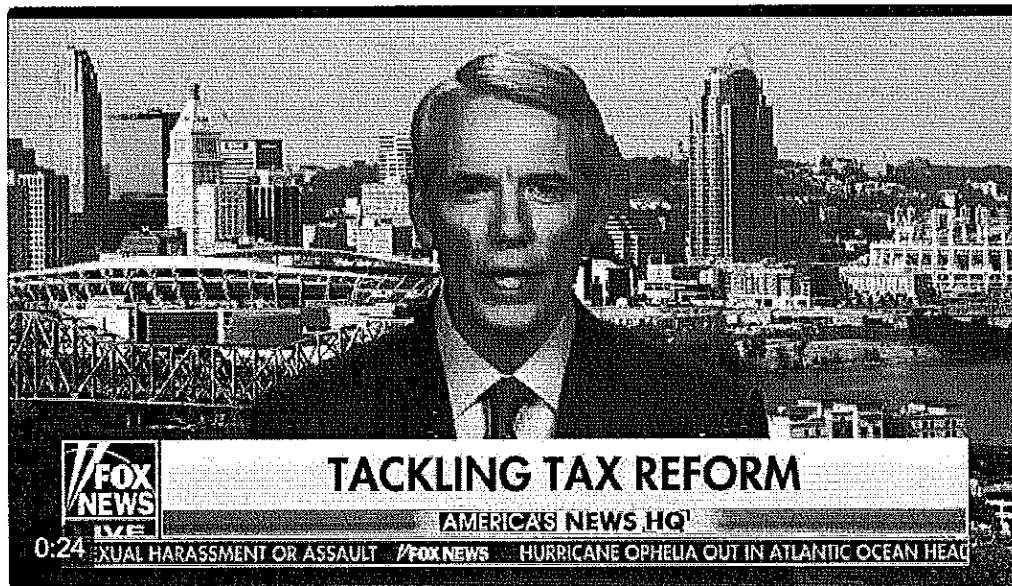
Rob Portman @senrobportman · 51m

Congress must act with urgency to fix our broken tax code & give our economy a shot in the arm. Will help #Ohio auto workers. #Jobs



Rob Portman @senrobportman · Oct 17

#TaxReform is focused on #jobs and wages. It is needed to let our economy reach its full potential;





Rob Portman @senrobportman · Oct 17

Heroin, and now fentanyl, has devastated far too many families in #Ohio. Why we need the #STOPAct:



Every person in this family has used heroin

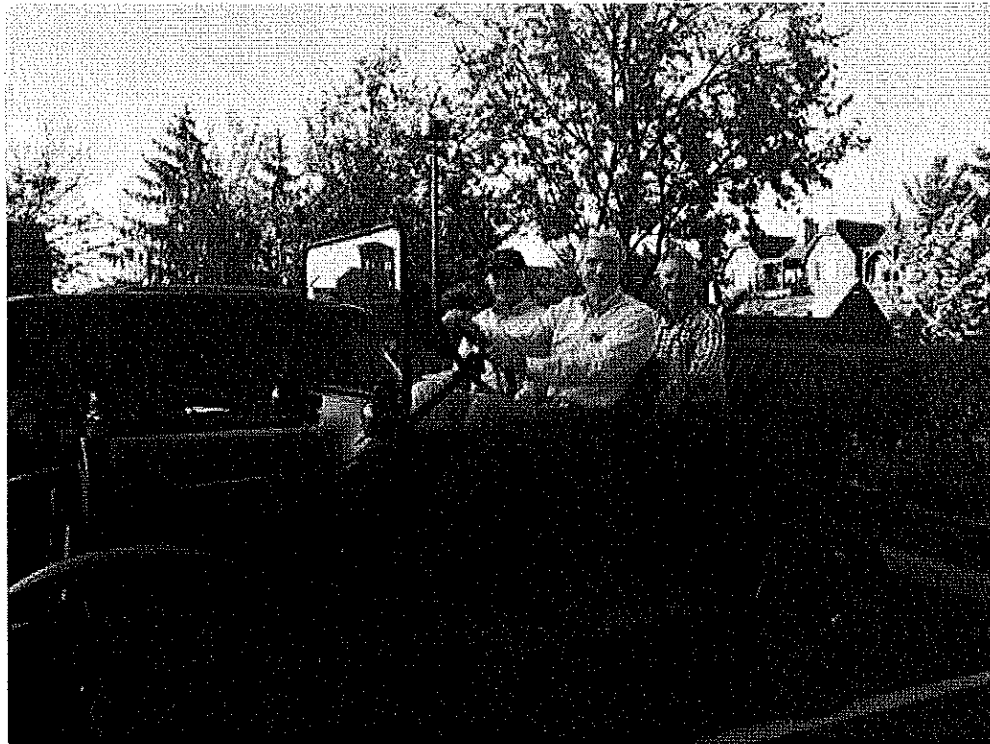
Sherry Sizemore's family was devastated by heroin: Two sons and an ex-husband addicted, one son dead of suicide. She knew she needed help.

wcpo.com



Rob Portman @senrobportman · Oct 15

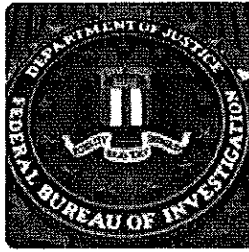
Driving my 100 yr old Ohio Model T - great way to cap off this week's auto industry tour of #Ohio.





Rob Portman @senrobportman · 5h

Another story highlighting need to #endhumantrafficking. #SESTA will help deliver justice for trafficking survivors:



FBI helps rescue 84 children from sex trafficking

The latest operation ended Oct. 15 and involved 55 FBI field offices.

9news.com

SPRINGFIELD NEWS-SUN

Portman pushes tax reform with Springfield business leaders

Federal tax reform being pushed by Republicans would create jobs and boost wages, U.S. Sen. Rob Portman told a group of Springfield business owners during a private roundtable discussion Monday.

The meeting was one of several similar discussions Portman has also hosted in Columbus, Dayton and Cleveland. The discussion wasn't open to the public. But Portman argued afterward the framework being discussed now would encourage investment and provide an incentive for large companies to bring profits now being held overseas back to the U.S.

"A lot of the input I got was from small businesses, saying, 'Let's make sure we have tax reform and tax cuts but let's make sure it works for small businesses,'" Portman said. "That's really the heart and soul of the economy here in Springfield and I talked about how we're going to help small businesses get lower rates but also simplify the tax code."...

Portman also said he would likely vote for the legislation, even if it initially adds to the deficit. The proposed reforms would boost the economy, he said, overshadowing any initial deficits.

"If you actually do bring back some of the \$2.5 trillion to \$3 trillion that's locked up overseas and bring it back to America to invest in jobs, people and planned equipment, what would that do to economic growth," Portman said. "We need to have good numbers on that and show that if you do this kind of tax reform, it will actually bring more revenue coming in because there will be more economic growth."

("Portman pushes tax reform with Springfield business leaders," Matt Sanctis. Springfield News-Sun. October 16, 2017)

wfmj.com
Locally Owned

President Trump signs Senator Rob Portman's bipartisan legislation for young children

U.S. Senators Rob Portman (R-OH) and Tim Kaine (D-VA), the former Vice Presidential candidate who ran with Hillary Clinton in the 2016 election and a member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP) Committee, announced that President Donald Trump signed their bipartisan Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Act into law.

The law reauthorizes current research and improve public health programs for early detection, diagnosis and treatment of hearing loss in newborns, infants and young children...

"Early hearing detection is critical because children with hearing loss often fall behind their peers in speech development, cognitive skills, and social skills. This measure represents an important step

towards improving early hearing detection and intervention for newborns, infants, and young children, and I'm pleased that President Trump has signed this legislation into law," said Portman.

("President Trump signs Senator Rob Portman's bipartisan legislation for young children," Lauren Stebelton. Youngstown WFMJ. October 20, 2017)

The Columbus Dispatch

Brown, Portman see some bright spots in tax meeting with Trump

Ohio's two U.S. senators said they are cautiously optimistic about Congress' chances of passing comprehensive tax reform after a meeting at the White House on Wednesday.

Republicans and Democrats from the Senate Finance Committee — including Sens. Sherrod Brown and Rob Portman of Ohio — huddled with President Donald Trump to push their respective priorities for tax reform.

Speaking briefly at the beginning of the meeting, Trump said the current proposal would increase the child tax credit, end the estate tax and cut the corporate tax rate to no more than 20 percent...

Portman, meanwhile, called the meeting "productive."

Both parties, the Republican said, "agreed tax reform should focus on helping middle-class families, and that's what our plan does.

"Our tax-reform framework will help create more jobs, increase wages, and encourage more investment and opportunities in America," Portman said after the meeting. "I remain optimistic that, by working together, we can simplify and reform our outdated tax code on behalf of middle-class families and small businesses."

("Brown, Portman see some bright spots in tax meeting with Trump," Jessica Wehrman. Columbus Dispatch. October 18, 2017)

###

[Unsubscribe](#)

[Contact Me](#)

[Office Locations](#)



[Click here to open a plain text version of this email](#)

[Click here to forward this email](#)

[Click here to open this e-mail in its own browser window](#)



Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

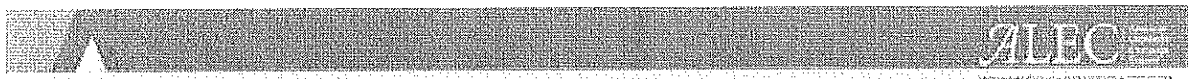
Your Update From The Center for State Fiscal Reform 10/24/2017

1 message

Jonathan Williams <jwilliams@alec.org>
To: latoursm@gmail.com

Tue, Oct 24, 2017 at 12:31 PM

To view this email as a web page, go [here](#).



Center for State Fiscal Reform Update - October 24, 2017

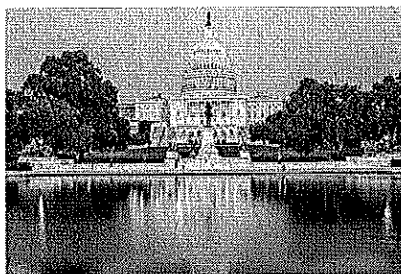


Facebook



Twitter

Friday: ALEC - Federal Coalition Partners Conference Call



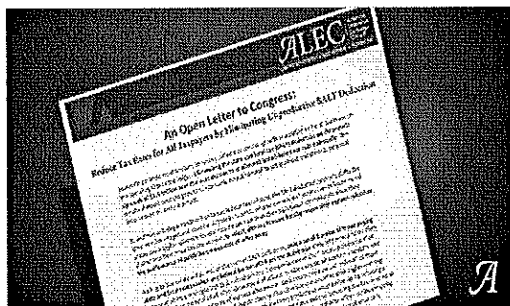
The ALEC - Federal Coalition Partners are hosting a call with representatives from the U.S. House, Senate and White House coalition teams on Friday. They will bring you an up to date report on what is going on around Capitol Hill and the White House.

The call will take place Friday, October 27 at 3 p.m. ET.

[Register for Call](#)

SALT Deduction

State and Local Legislators Urge Congress to Eliminate State and Local Tax Deduction



ALEC released an open letter to Congress that is signed by more than 100 state and local legislators calling for the elimination of the state and local tax (SALT) deduction.

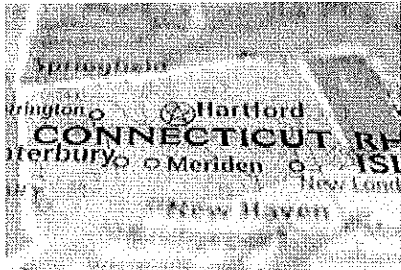
The Center for State Fiscal Reform has been leading the charge to eliminate this deduction as a part of a comprehensive tax reform package.

[Read the Letter in Full](#)

Income Taxes

Lessons from Connecticut's Income Tax: A Cautionary Tale

Thurston Powers | Center for State Fiscal Reform



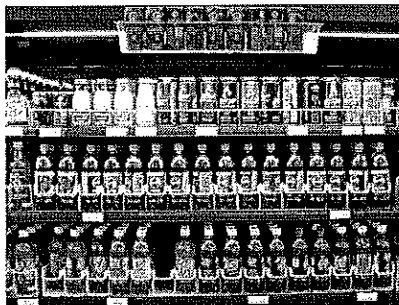
In 1991, Connecticut implemented a flat income tax of 4.5 percent. The income tax promised to stabilize tax revenues by replacing the volatile state capital gains tax and was to accompany a meaningful spending cap. Over the past 26 years, the income tax rate has been raised and brackets have been added multiple times.

[Read More](#)

Chicago Soda Tax

Support for Soda Tax Fizzles in Cook County

Christine Smith | Center for State Fiscal Reform



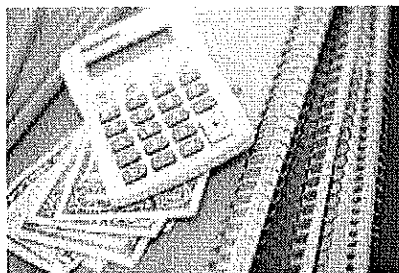
Tax-and-spend proponents have a serious problem when even the greater Chicagoland area, long known as a city that soaks taxpayers, heeds citizen uproar and moves to repeal a tax. Thankfully, most individuals on the Board of Commissioners are backtracking after increasingly apparent constituent disapproval.

[Read More](#)

Education Spending

Education Spending and Outcomes

Thurston Powers | Center for State Fiscal Reform



The combination of quality teachers instructing engaged students is one way to yield desirable academic outcomes. But simply providing additional school funding does not magically create better teachers or more serious students.

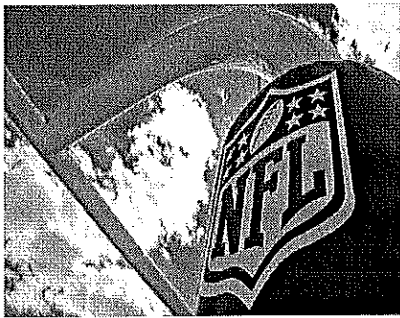
[Read More](#)

Taxpayer Funded Sports

Legislator Calls on ALEC to Help End Taxpayer-Funded Stadiums

Erica York | Center for State Fiscal Reform

ALEC member and State Rep. Nate Walker is



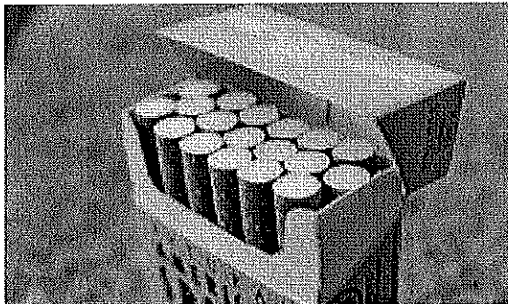
calling for closer scrutiny of using taxpayer-funded subsidies for sports facilities in his state of Missouri. [In a statement](#), Rep. Walker proposed working with ALEC to form a multi-state team of legislators to strengthen this movement. Expressing similar sentiment, President Trump [tweeted](#) that laws giving the NFL massive federal level tax carve outs must be changed.

[Read More](#)

Tabacco Taxes and Revenue

My Voice: Tobacco Taxes Aren't The Answer for SD

Erica York | Center for State Fiscal Reform

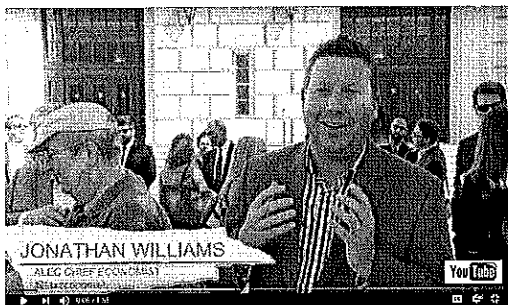


South Dakota taxpayers may be voting on a hefty tobacco tax increase in November 2018, if the ballot measure receives enough signatures by the state's Nov. 6, 2017, deadline. The large tax increase would provide support S.D.'s four technical institutes.

[Read More](#)

Tax Cuts Now

Watch Jonathan Williams Explain Why America Needs Tax Cuts Now



The ALEC Tax team joined How Money Walks, Job Creators Network and small business owners from across the country in front of the Internal Revenue Service to rally for tax cuts and a fair, simple tax code.

[Watch Video](#)


Facebook



Twitter



LinkedIn



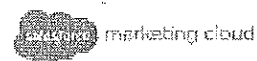
YouTube

This email was sent to: latoursm@gmail.com

This email was sent by: American Legislative Exchange Council
2900 Crystal Drive, Suite 600 Arlington, VA 22202 United States

We respect your right to privacy - [view our policy](#)

POWERED BY



7/25/2018

Gmail - Your Update From The Center for State Fiscal Reform 10/24/2017

[Manage Subscriptions](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)



Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

Ohio Report, Wednesday, October 25, 2017

1 message

Gongwer News Service <gongwerreports@gongwer-oh.com>
To: sml@sarahlatourette.com

Wed, Oct 25, 2017 at 6:15 PM

[OHIO REPORT](#)[View in a browser](#)[News](#) [Bill Tracking](#) [Legislation](#)

OHIO REPORT WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25

Senate Leader Says Budget Update Expected In Coming Weeks; Property Tax Complaint, Move-Over Bills Pass

Unemployment Compensation Bill Draws No Testimony As Business, Labor Remain Divided

House Panel Endorses Down Syndrome Abortion Ban

Senate Begins Hearings On Bill To Unravel 'Truth In Sentencing,' Keep Problem Prisoners Behind Bars

School Officials Question Bill Placing New Requirements On Credit Card Use

Skeptical Lawmakers Question Proponents Of Piping Material Bill

Human Services Agencies Support Bill To Increase Information Sharing

High Court: Sexual Imposition Charges Involving Two Young Children May Be Dismissed

Retiree Advocates Vote To Oppose Recent OPERS Cost-Of-Living Proposal

Governor's Appointments

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Senate Committee Hearings

Ways & Means

Government Oversight & Reform

Energy & Natural Resources

House Committee Hearings

Aging & Long Term Care

Transportation & Public Safety

Government Accountability & Oversight

Health

Higher Education & Workforce Development

Community & Family Advancement

ACTIVITY REPORTS

House

Senate

CALENDARS

Day Planner

Please send all correspondence to gongwer@gongwer-oh.com. This mailbox is not regularly monitored.

[View as a Web Page](#)

Copyright 2017, Gongwer News Service/Ohio

7/23/2018

Gmail - Ohio Report, Wednesday, October 25, 2017

17 S. High St., Suite 630, Columbus OH 43215

All Rights Reserved. This message and any attachments may not be forwarded or reproduced without express permission from Gongwer News Service.

[unsubscribe](#)

4 attachments



Oct25House.htm
55K



171025dayplan.htm
5K



Oct25.htm
54K



Oct25Senate.htm
36K



GONGWER Ohio
The Record of Capitol Square Since 1906

House Activity for Wednesday, October 25, 2017

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Aging & Long Term Care

HB PALLIATIVE CARE (LaTourette, S.) To create the Palliative Care and Quality of Life Interdisciplinary **286**Council, to establish the Palliative Care Consumer and Professional Information and Education Program, and to require health care facilities to identify patients and residents who could benefit from palliative care. **(REPORTED-AMENDED (No testimony); 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)**

Before reporting the bill, the committee adopted an amendment from Rep. Darrell Kick (R-Loudonville) that replaces the word "or" with the word "and" in line 61 of the bill. In doing so, the as-reported version of the bill reads that at least two members of the council shall be physicians who are board-certified in hospice and palliative care.

HB HPRS RETIREMENT (Carfagna, R., Ramos, D.) To revise the law governing the State Highway Patrol **362** Retirement System. **(CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-All testimony)**

Representatives of the Ohio Highway Patrol Retirement System and those representing retirees both signaled their support for the bill in testimony.

Mark Atkeson, the retirement system's executive director, described the bill as a follow-up to prior legislation (HB520, 131st General Assembly) which was intended to clean up language related to state public retirement systems. Given the system's status as a single-employer system, unlike other Ohio systems, he said these additional changes are needed to ensure the system's continued solvency.

Components of the bill include:

- Restoring the minimum retirement age to 52 for new hires after Jan. 1, 2020.
- Calculating pension benefits for off-duty disabilities based on a minimum 12-year service benefits instead of the current 20-year benefit.
- Eliminating automatic 50% unfunded survivor benefit and establishing a set amount \$900 for survivor benefits with that amount to be increased annually by the board.
- Providing no survivor benefits for those marrying after retirement.

"These changes reduce the amortization period of our unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities by several years, and when these changes are fully realized they will have a compounded cumulative effect on reducing our unfunded liabilities," Mr. Atkeson said.

Robert Booker, president of the Ohio Highway Patrol Retirees' Association, also voiced his group's support for the move. He said the proposed changes "are necessary and will decrease the amortization period of the system's unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities by several years, thus improving its solvency."

"We know that changes, while sometimes concerning, are needed to ensure the long-term viability of our retirement system," Mr. Booker added. "These changes will preserve our system; not only for our current retirees but for many others transitioning from the active ranks."

OSHP Staff Lt. Matt Them additionally expressed his "full support," adding the bill "is in the best interest of the retirement system and its long-term solvency."

Subscribers Note: For full testimony see the [committee's website](#) under Oct. 25.

Transportation & Public Safety

HB ELECTRIC BICYCLES (Brinkman, T.) To establish requirements for the use of electric bicycles.
250 (CONTINUED-SUBSTITUTE; 2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible substitute)

Rep. Dave Greenspan (R-Westlake) offered and the committee adopted a substitute version to reserve the authorization of e-bike usage on natural surface trails to local governments.

Morgan Lommele testified on behalf of PeopleForBikes and the Bicycle Product Suppliers Association and explained that Ohio is one of 20 states that does not have rules governing the use of e-bikes.

"The absence of any provisions aimed at e-bikes makes it particularly confusing for manufacturers, retailers, customers, and law enforcement to determine how they are regulated within our traffic laws or what type of vehicle they are regulated as," she said.

This bill will establish consistent standards for the three main forms of products on the market, create a uniform labeling standard for all e-bikes to aid law enforcement, and includes additional restrictions for higher speed Class 3 bicycles, she said.

Dan Fausey, president of Central Ohio Mountain Biking Organization, said he supports the legislation, but explained that he is not in favor of authorizing e-bikes to traverse on all-natural surface trails without land manager and community input. Mr. Fausey said the amendment passed in committee addresses his concerns.

"We believe e-bikes reach an audience of people who wish to stay in the sport longer, and it reaches individuals who see the distance or terrain of their commute as a barrier to bicycling more often," said Laura Estandia, executive director of Bike Miami Valley.

As the home to the largest paved trail network, e-bike regulation will be important for attracting tourism to the area, she said.

Ms. Estandia told Rep. Sheehy that speed limits on the trails are under the jurisdiction of the trail managing agencies. Though they are currently inconsistent, there is a movement in Miami Valley to standardize speed limits throughout the trail network, she said.

Phillip Obermiller, an Ohio resident and active e-bike rider, explained that he and his wife have enjoyed many trips partaking in local commerce on their e-bikes.

Mr. Obermiller said that it is time to update the code to include e-bikes, and that he hopes the stigma attached to e-bikes will fade.

Mr. Obermiller told Rep. Doug Green (R-Mt. Orab) that some e-bikes cost between \$600 and \$800, but he purchased his personal e-bike for \$2,500.

Rep. Alicia Reece (D-Cincinnati) inquired if there are standards for assembling e-bikes. Mr. Obermiller replied that the classifications are mainly based on the power and speed of the bike. In response to her question about safety concerns, Mr. Obermiller said that he would be worried about parents allowing children to use e-bikes that are more powerful than they can control.

Peter Smakula, owner of an Akron electric bicycle store, said the legislation is necessary to remedy the misconception that e-bikes are motorized vehicles.

Tom Bennet, owner of Orbit City Bikes in Columbus, explained that many customers question the legality of e-bikes because there are no specific provisions in the law regarding e-bikes. It is not only customers who need guidance, but the BMV as well, he said.

To address Rep. Reece's earlier question about standards, Mr. Bennet said there are federal standards for building bicycles, including e-bikes.

Steve Murphy, co-founder of the Little Miami State Park, said the park has received no complaints about the speed or use of e-bikes from its 1.2 million visitors each year.

Rep. Michael Sheehy (D-Oregon) said he believes that the culture must change, and the public must accept that e-bike owners have the right to ride on state trails.

Rep. Reece inquired how the park enforces speed limits on the trails. Mr. Murphy replied that the park has volunteers who monitor the trail and "see something say something" policies for riders.

On behalf of Rails for Trails Conservancy, Eric Oberg testified that the organization believes it is important to clearly distinguish e-bikes from mopeds and other motorized vehicles.

Mr. Oberg told Rep. Reece that the e-bike motors do not exceed 20 miles per hour for Class 1 and Class 2 models. Relatively speaking, many traditional bikes are faster and Class 3 e-bikes will be optional for local governments to allow, he added.

Enforcement is not going to be easy, but admitting the small population of e-bikes is not going to change the safety paradigm on bike trails, he said.

Randy Ryberg of Fire Rivers Metro Parks in Dayton gave his support and said this bill aligns with the best practices and etiquette his park expects on its trails.

HB LICENSE PLATE (Roegner, K.) To create the "Hudson City Schools" license plate. **(REPORTED (No 264 testimony); 2nd Hearing-Interested party-Possible vote)**

HB LICENSE PLATE (Roegner, K.) To create the "Stow-Munroe Falls City Schools" license plate. **265 (REPORTED (No testimony); 2nd Hearing-Interested party-Possible vote)**

HB ROAD NAMING (Smith, K., Rogers, J.) To designate a portion of I-271 in Cuyahoga County as the **270 "Captain Michael Palumbo Memorial Highway." (REPORTED; 1st Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)**

Rep. Kent Smith (D-Euclid) said his bill designates a portion of Interstate 271 in the memory of Beachwood Fire Captain Michael Palumbo.

Rep. John Rogers (D-Mentor-on-the-Lake) said Mr. Palumbo's fatal brain cancer was caused by his exposure in the line of duty.

The representatives said that **SB 27** was inspired by Capt. Palumbo, and with its passage families of firefighters can now claim workers compensation for the those who developed cancer in the line of duty.

Christina Palumbo, wife of the late Mr. Palumbo, said that the renaming is about her husband's service, raising awareness about the risks of cancer for firefighters, and the opportunity for their families to seek compensation through BWC.

Bill Mastroianni, director of operations for the Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters, said, "Michael made it his mission to help educate not only our profession, but the general public, our elected officials and many others while becoming the face and namesake of SB 27."

On behalf of the Ohio Municipal League, Kent Scarrett submitted written testimony in support of the highway designation.

"This honor for Captain Palumbo will represent our appreciation for all firefighters," he said in testimony. "He is a tremendous example of the great people who serve throughout Ohio."

Nicholas Ricco of the City of Beachwood Fire Department also submitted written testimony in support of the highway designation.

HB LICENSE PLATE (Hughes, J.) To create the "Pelotonia" license plate. **(REPORTED; 1st Hearing-All 313)** testimony-Possible vote)

Rep. Jim Hughes (R-Columbus) said his bill would create a "Pelotonia" license plate to support the annual bicycle ride that has raised more than \$130 million for cancer research.

Pelotonia fundraisers directly benefit the Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute at The Ohio State University, Rep. Hughes said. For every license plate sold, \$15 will be donated to cancer research, he added.

Matt Hare shared his battle with Multiple Myeloma and the impact Pelotonia has had on his life as a rider and a beneficiary. "The Funding for research and Pelotonia is critical to our entire community and state," he told the committee.

HB OPPORTUNITY CORRIDOR (Smith, K., Howse, S.) To designate the planned boulevard known as the **83** Opportunity Corridor within Cleveland as the "Carl and Louis Stokes Opportunity Corridor." **(REPORTED; 2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)**

Louis and Cordell Stokes submitted written testimony in support of the bill to rename the Opportunity Corridor in Cleveland after their fathers, calling it the "Carl and Louis Stokes Opportunity Corridor."

Louis Stokes became the first African American to represent Ohio in the House of Representatives in 1986 and his brother Carl is a former Cleveland mayor. (See [Submission](#))

"This proposed street corridor renaming would be a visual tribute to their longstanding goals and an inspirational incentive to future generations of entrepreneurs," they said in testimony.

SB LICENSE PLATE (Coley, B.) To create the "KylerStrong Foundation" license plate. **(CONTINUED; 1st 77)** Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Township) said his bill creates the KylerStrong Foundation license plate to support advocacy and research.

The license plate will be named in memory of a constituent Kyler Bradley who succumbed to Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma brain cancer at age 10, he said.

Kyler's Mother, Rebecca Bradley, shared the story of her son's diagnosis and battle with brain cancer. The Kyler Strong Foundation's mission is "to raise awareness and funding to find the cure, cause and prevention of DIPG brain cancer so that no parent or child EVER has to take this journey," she said.

Since its establishment, the foundation given \$60,000 to Cincinnati Children's Hospital for DIPG research, Ms. Bradley said. For every license plate purchased, \$15 will be donated to the foundation, which will then donate the full amount to DIPG research, she added.

HR HYPERLOOP (Hughes, J.) To express support for the Hyperloop Transportation Initiative.
236 (REPORTED; 2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

Thea Walsh, director of transportation systems and funding for the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, testified in support of the resolution.

MORPC submitted the proposal for the Midwest Connect to the Hyperloop One Global Challenge, she said. "With our local innovation in smart infrastructure and the significant amount of freight moving through the state, Ohio is the perfect place to pursue opportunities with the emerging Hyperloop technology," she added.

Subscribers Note: Full testimonies are available on the committee website under Oct. 25.

Government Accountability & Oversight

HJR UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (Schuring, K.) Proposing to enact Section 2t of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to allow the General Assembly to provide by law for the issuance of bonds to pay unemployment compensation benefits when the fund created for that purpose is or will be depleted or to repay outstanding advances made by the federal government to the unemployment compensation program. (CONTINUED (No testimony) (See separate story); 2nd Hearing-All testimony)

HB POLITICAL SUBDIVISION SPENDING (Schuring, K., Greenspan, D.) Regarding use of credit cards and debit cards by political subdivisions. (CONTINUED (See separate story); 4th Hearing-All testimony)

HB UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (Schuring, K.) To modify terms describing payments made under the Unemployment Compensation Law, to increase the amount of wages subject to unemployment compensation premiums, to require qualifying employees to make payments to the Unemployment Compensation Insurance Fund, to allow the Director of Job and Family Services to adjust maximum weekly benefit amounts, to reduce the maximum number of benefit weeks, and to make other changes to the Unemployment Compensation Law. (CONTINUED (No testimony) (See separate story); 2nd Hearing-All testimony)

Health

HB MEDICAL RECORDS (Schuring, K.) To modify the laws governing access to a patient's medical records. (CONTINUED; 3rd Hearing-Opponent)

Megan Frantz Oldham, an attorney who testified on behalf of the Ohio Association for Justice, raised concerns that language in the bill would create uncertainty around all medical records are being retained and provided upon request.

"Giving medical providers the complete discretion to decide what is a medical record is in contravention to a patient's fundamental and inherent right to know what has been done and is being done to their bodies," she said. "It is in contravention of the goal of transparency. It is in contravention of ensuring that subsequent medical providers are accurately and fully informed."

While proponents of the bill claim the legislation wouldn't limit the information provided to litigants, she said her clients must have full access to their medical records and be able to prove issues before filing a legal claim.

Current law requires doctors' offices and hospitals to provide complete medical records when requested and there is little concern they're not following the code, Ms. Frantz Oldham said. The bill would cause uncertainty because of how it defines medical records.

"Patients will no longer have unfettered access to their medical information in order for them to make informed decisions about their health and well-being," she said. "Instead, medical providers will have the unfettered right to determine what medical information patients and their subsequent providers are entitled to."

HB ABORTION (LaTourette, S., Merrin, D.) To prohibit a person from performing, inducing, or attempting to

214 perform or induce an abortion on a pregnant woman who is seeking the abortion because an unborn child has or may have Down Syndrome. (REPORTED (See separate story); 4th Hearing-Possible vote)

HB ADMITTING PRIVILEGES (Gavarone, T.) To prohibit a physician from being required to secure a **273** maintenance of certification as a condition of obtaining licensure, reimbursement, or employment or obtaining admitting privileges or surgical privileges at a hospital or health care facility. (CONTINUED; 3rd Hearing-Opponent and Interested party)

A dozen individuals commented on the bill, and nearly all were opponents arguing it would lead to quality concerns.

"Hospitals, health plans, and the patients they serve have a right to expect that board certified medical specialists are meeting national practice standards established by their peers in their chosen medical specialty," said Mira Irons, senior vice president for academic affairs at the American Board of Medical Specialties.

She pointed to research that has found physicians who have secured a maintenance of certification are safe, more effective and incur fewer disciplinary actions.

"Physicians created board certification over 100 years ago so that patients could distinguish between physicians who had the knowledge and skills to provide the full scope of care in a given specialty, from those who did not," Ms. Irons said. "With today's rapid pace of change in medicine, hospitals, patients, providers and physicians need more than ever to be able to trust that medical specialists are up to date in their specialty's best practices. MOC provides that public attestation in a way that no other activity, including continuing medical education, does."

Diane Gorgas, a board-certified emergency physician and professor of emergency medicine at Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, shared the same concerns.

The annual costs of maintaining certification are about \$250-\$300 annually, which is in line with or often much less than similar continuing education course fees paid by other professionals, such as lawyers, pilots and accountants, she said.

"Given the importance of public safety and the high stakes of patient care, it is important for physicians to be episodically assessed throughout their careers. Giving a physician a lifetime certificate that suggests quality and competency misleads the public. That's why certification must be time-limited and physicians must be required to demonstrate how well they've been keeping up," she said.

The committee also received similar testimony from the Ohio Hospital Association, Ohio Association of Health Plans, Columbus Medical Association, as well as a handful of physicians from throughout the state.

HB DISEASE CURES (Butler, J.) To adopt the Solemn Covenant of the States to award prizes for curing **345** diseases. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. Jim Butler (R-Oakwood) said he "truly believe(s) this bill has the potential to be the beginning of a movement, a new model to be replicated in states across the country, with the goal of discovering cures for major diseases."

The bill was inspired by his parents, both of who died from cancer, he said. When he researched their versions of the disease, he learned that there were only options to prolong their lives for a short time and not cure it.

More research funding is geared toward treatments because there is more money to be made if they're successful, he said. Many researchers don't seek to build on cure studies because the costs that go into them far exceed what it can be worth financially.

"There is no money in it. If you have a cure for any disease whatsoever you can basically never make back your investment," Rep. Butler said.

States and the world at large could see significant cost benefits, however, he said. Under the bill, which was unveiled previously at a Statehouse news conference (See Gongwer Ohio Report, September 12, 2017), the prize provided by the Solemn Covenant of States would be determined by health care savings, which would likely reach into the tens of billions of dollars.

The compact would choose which 10 diseases that cost the most to treat and make them a priority for prize money, he said. States that don't join the compact could have to pay rebates to those that do once they start seeing financial benefits from cures.

"I think that if we're able to do this and there's this very important financial incentive out there, we have so much innovation especially in our country that within 5-10 years we will see cures for major diseases happen," Rep. Butler said.

A handful of committee members on both sides of the aisle praised the sponsor's penchant for thinking big with the bills he introduces.

Rep. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green) asked if he had spoken with other states about joining the compact. Rep. Butler said he's spoken with legislators from other states as well as national associations representing lawmakers and all have been in favor of the bill.

If the bill becomes law, he said he intends to promote the compact in other states.

Rep. Butler told Rep. Nickie Antonio (D-Lakewood) that future witnesses will provide evidence that research isn't focused on a cure.

It's possible there is someone who has already developed a cure for cancer or other diseases, but clinical trials couldn't be funded, he said. Those are the kind of people he hopes will be encouraged by the billions of dollars that could be won through the compact structure.

Answering additional questions from the panel, the sponsor said the compact would be responsible for marketing the cures and contracting with companies to produce any related drugs.

Higher Education & Workforce Development

HBMONTH DESIGNATION (Barnes, J.) To enact the "Respect Your Date Act" to designate the month of **240** April as "Respect Your Date Month" and to require each state institution of higher education to adopt a policy regarding dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and rape on campus and to declare an emergency. (CONTINUED (No testimony); 3rd Hearing-Opponent)

HBCAMPUS SPEECH (Goodman, W., Brenner, A.) To enact the "Campus Free Speech Act" with respect to **363** the freedom of speech and assembly at state institutions of higher education and the charging and allocation of student activity fees. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. Wes Goodman (R-Cardington) said the bill is pertinent at a time when Americans appear to be at odds with one another more than ever.

The measure, which he and co-sponsor Rep. Andy Brenner (R-Powell) detailed in an August press conference, would prohibit institutions from canceling or preventing an event from taking place if the action has a chilling effect on free speech. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, September 29, 2017)

"A free and open exchange of speech and ideas is critical to ensuring that our students have the most meaningful and impactful education experience in a way that prepares them to be active and engaged citizens in our Republic," Rep. Goodman said.

The testimony comes as Ohio State University is facing a lawsuit for refusing to allow white supremacist Richard Spencer to speak on campus amid safety concerns. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 23, 2017)

Rep. Goodman said the bill makes it clear how institutions will have to react when faced with a free speech issue.

"This bill protects universities by providing clear guidance on campus speech issues, rather than forcing them to rely on ad-hoc decision making. When universities are challenged on their decisions, they can point to specific provisions in state law that guide their actions," he said.

Rep. Brenner added: "We have been fortunate in Ohio on this point to where such incidents have not been as severe. With our current political climate, I don't believe that it will continue to be that way and, therefore, House Bill 363 will provide guidance to a university when confronted with such a situation."

Chairman Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) questioned why universities and colleges are the only public entities addressed in the bill. Rep. Goodman said he'd welcome legislation pertaining to free speech in other public buildings, but the education institutions are common places for events that would highlight controversial ideas.

Recalling a Klu Klux Klan rally that took place in Cleveland in 1999, Rep. Kent Smith (D-Euclid) said there were no issues because the city took extensive actions to protect free speech and prepare for protesting.

He asked whether it's reasonable to require institutions to make such accommodations when they can be quite expensive.

"Because they're not going to be able to pull the plug, have we now put a substantial price tag on just the potential of something getting really crazy?" Rep. Smith said.

Likewise, Rep. Duffey and Rep. Catherine Ingram (D-Cincinnati) asked the sponsors if the state should pick up the tab for significant expenses institutions incur when protecting the First Amendment rights of controversial speakers or rallies.

Cost should not be a factor when it comes to protecting constitutional rights, Rep. Brenner said, suggesting that the General Assembly could offer to help institutions cover security costs on a case-by-case basis.

"There should be no limit in money to defend the First Amendment of the United States," he said. "The government has an obligation to defend the First Amendment."

Rep. Ingram also raised concerns about the liability institutions could face even if they do accept a speaker's invitation, suggesting a lawsuit could ensue if a smaller-desired-venue was booked.

She also suggested the bill's language be updated to require institutions to permit events so long as speakers are invited by authorized groups at the college or university.

Rep. Goodman said he thinks it's important to protect individual students' rights to invite speakers to campuses.

HB TENURED FACULTY (Young, R.) To require permanently tenured state university or college faculty **66** members to teach at least three credit hours of undergraduate courses per semester. (**CONTINUED-AMENDED**; 4th Hearing-Interested Party-Possible amendments)

The committee accepted an amendment that Chairman Duffey explained would eliminate proposed rankings of state institutions and instead categorize them as successfully promoting the undergraduate mission or as needing more work in the area.

The change was backed by the Inter-University Council, with President Bruce Johnson saying the bill provides an opportunity to show off the work of faculty - even if it does mean a lot of extra administrative work.

"The new requirements in House Bill 66 will result in administrative work that must be done both during the course of the study and then after the study is completed and the recommendations are adopted and required to

be implemented," he said.

"Despite this concern, however, the IUC believes that the added administrative burden actually presents an opportunity. That is, this bill presents an excellent opportunity for faculty to demonstrate just how vital their role is to the public institution's undergraduate mission, how they are contributing in that role, and how integral it truly is to the overall mission."

Mr. Johnson said he's confident that universities and faculty members will be praised for their student engagement in the bill's required report on institutions.

Dan Krane, chair of the Ohio Faculty Council, shared similar sentiments, saying that tenure demands excellence and requires consistency of professors while also providing them protections to expand on their research and remain in the public university system.


When there was a perception of plans to weaken tenure in Wisconsin, the University of Wisconsin - Madison lost 29 faculty members despite making \$23.6 million worth of counter offers, he said.

"Ohio derives great benefit from its wide variety of teaching, research and service contributions by faculty and the wide range of missions at each of our public institutions of higher education," Mr. Krane said. "We expect each individual faculty member and each of the institutions of which they are a part to be deeply committed to revitalizing the economy of the State and the nation by attracting and training an educated workforce."

He told Rep. Duffey that it's possible that faculty at more universities would pursue unionization if they felt that the state had an interest in weakening tenure.

Responding to a question from Rep. Ingram, Mr. Krane said the committee created under the bill should consider ways to find even comparisons between schools if they are going to be graded because all have different missions.

Community & Family Advancement

HB SNAP (Henne, M., McColley, R.) Regarding eligibility and benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition **119** Assistance program and the Medicaid program. (**REPORTED (No testimony)**; 6th Hearing-All testimony-
 Possible vote)

HB KINSHIP CAREGIVERS (Boyd, J., Rezabek, J.) To require a region-based kinship caregiver navigator **126** program. (**CONTINUED (No testimony)**; 4th Hearing-All testimony)


HB PUBLIC ASSISTANCE (Young, R.) Regarding the release of information concerning public and medical **340** assistance recipients. (**CONTINUED (See separate story)**; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

SB CHILD SUPPORT (Coley, B.) To amend the child support laws. (**CONTINUED (No testimony)**; 3rd **70** Hearing-Opponent & interested party)

17 S. High St., Suite 630
 Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | **Fax:** 614-221-7844 | **Email:** gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed,
 Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

© 2017, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.



GONGWER Ohio
The Record of Capitol Square Since 1906

Daily Activity Planner for Thursday, October 26

Legislative Committees

No legislative committees scheduled.

Agency Calendar

BWC Board of Directors, Rm. 3, Level 2, 30 W. Spring St., Columbus, 8 a.m.

Congressional Redistricting Working Group, Rm. 313, Statehouse, Columbus, 10 a.m.

House Speaker's Task Force on Education & Poverty, 77 S High St, 19th Flr., Room 1960, Columbus, 10 a.m.

State Employment Relations Board, 65 E. State St., 12th Fl., Columbus, 10 a.m.

State Board of Education, 26 S. Front St., Columbus, 1 p.m. (Gifted Advisory Council)

Facilities Construction Commission, Rm. 121, Statehouse, Columbus, 1:30 p.m.

Broadcast Educational Media Commission, 2470 North Star Rd., Columbus, 2 p.m. (Finance Committee)

Event Planner

Rep. Glenn Holmes (D-McDonald) fundraiser, Cimenero's Banquet Center, 123 N. Main St., Niles, 5 p.m., (Victory Sponsor \$1,400, Touchdown Sponsor \$700, Field Goal Sponsor \$300, Individual Tickets \$50 to Committee to Elect Glenn Holmes)

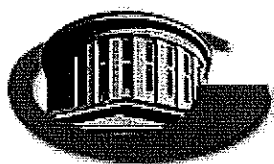
17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | **Fax:** 614-221-7844 | **Email:** gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed,
Staff Writers

© 2017, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.



GONGWER Ohio

The Record of Capitol Square Since 1906

Volume #86, Report #206 -- Wednesday, October 25, 2017

Senate Leader Says Budget Update Expected In Coming Weeks; Property Tax Complaint, Move-Over Bills Pass

Senate President Larry Obhof said Wednesday he believes conference committee negotiations around a pending omnibus bill to address lingering budget issues will wrap up by early to mid-November.

Originally a school technology and safety bill, the measure (SB 8) is being targeted by lawmakers as a vehicle to correct budget language and potentially avoid future budget veto overrides.

"My anticipation is whatever we work out we will do so by the next time the Senate is in session," the Medina Republican said. "I would expect in the next two weeks we'll do whatever we're going to do."

The Senate is scheduled to next meet Nov. 8, but Sen. Obhof also floated the chamber's planned Nov. 15 meeting as a potential deadline. Without elaborating, he said there is "plenty of room for compromise" on various aspects being negotiated.

Among anticipated topics is a yet-to-be unveiled agreement between lawmakers, the administration on counties over the Medicaid managed care sales tax, which could be included in SB8. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, September 26, 2017)

"I don't anticipate it becoming a really large corrective bill but we'll see," Sen. Obhof said. "We'll continue our discussions with the House and wherever we end up will be agreeable to both chambers and the administration."

Senate Action: Meanwhile, the Senate passed three bills unanimously, including a House bill to codify Supreme Court decisions related to property tax complaints, and Senate bills regarding waste collection vehicles and electronic legal documents.

The House bill (HB 118) from Rep. Derek Merrin (R-Maumee) is intended to codify Supreme Court decisions from 2013 and 2014 that found a property tax complaint cannot be dismissed because of owner misidentification, said Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon).

"You'd be amazed at how many times this happens," the senator told colleagues on the floor. Such dismissals are made "to the detriment of the fair administration of our tax system and, frankly, justice."

Sen. Frank LaRose (R-Hudson) said his bill (SB 127) would make a simple change adding waste collection vehicles to the list of vehicles granted move-over protection. The legislation would require drivers to change lanes or proceed with caution when approaching a parked waste collection vehicle.

Sen. LaRose said the bill is more needed than ever considering the increase in distracted driving. "The men and women out there picking up the trash put themselves in great danger to do so," the sponsor said. "This can happen on a 25 mile-per-hour street."

Sen. Michael Skindell (D-Lakewood) and Sen. Eklund each urged passed of their bill (SB 139), which aims to ensure official and authentic versions of state legal material are available to the public.

"Online publication is often accompanied by the decision to stop providing print copies of the printed material," Sen. Skindell said. "Senate Bill 139 provides a mechanism for providing the state's official legal material online with the same level of trustworthiness traditionally afforded to print publications."

The measure also lays out requirements for preserving and ensuring the backup and recovery of that material, the sponsors said.

Unemployment Compensation Bill Draws No Testimony As Business, Labor Remain Divided

The House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee was slated to hear testimony from all sides Wednesday on a proposal to revamp the state's unemployment compensation system.

Instead, it heard nothing.

The contentious bill ([HB 382](#)), along with a companion resolution ([HJR 4](#)), aims to ensure the state's system is solvent. Legislative leaders, including sponsor [Rep. Kirk Schuring](#) (R-Canton), have described the proposal as a "conversation starter," but the conversation has yet to take the form of testimony.

Rep. Schuring said Wednesday he saw the quiet hearing as a good sign.

"To know that there's no one who's come in to say they're against it means there might be an opportunity to get this thing passed," he said.

The sponsor pointed to other legislation on the issue that he's sponsored, namely a bill introduced toward the end of the last session ([HB620](#), 131st General Assembly), which drew many opponents.

"This is a bill that no one's going to jump up and down for joy, because it requires sacrifice," he said. "It's a bill that they can't take, either labor or management, to their respective members and say 'look what we did for you.'"

Committee Chairman [Rep. Louis Blessing](#) (R-Cincinnati) said he couldn't speculate on the reason nobody showed up to testify, and stressed that it was still early in the process.

"It's probably going to be a very long timeline," he said.

[Speaker Cliff Rosenberger](#) (R-Clarksville) said Tuesday that the bill will need more work.

"I think the conversation has been that it needs to have some more vetting and some more work. I don't think that it's necessarily that it won't pass," he told reporters after session.

"I think it is very necessary that we do everything we can to sure up the system for the future for our state, and nobody is going to like it," the speaker added. "We can try all we want, but all sides are not going to like it, but that's what legislating is all about. You can't make everybody happy."

Rep. Schuring said he planned to continue meeting with stakeholders about the bill, but that he would also be working to gain the support of committee members.

"Right now there's no official opposition," he said. "If there's no official opposition, that also could mean we have a green light to move the bill."

While nobody testified against the measure, that doesn't mean everyone is happy with it.

"It's a starting point," Don Boyd, director labor and legal affairs for the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, said in an interview. "We're treating it as such and we didn't feel the need to go in and testify on a bill point by point that we know is going to have to go through significant changes before it has a chance to go anywhere."

Mr. Boyd said the chamber continues to have concerns about a proposal for employees to pay a coinsurance payment into the fund. He said the bill isn't a balanced approach.

"There are a lot of items on the revenue side, a lot of tax increases for what amounts to in many parts of the bill some temporary changes to benefits," he said. "We think we need to take a look at both sides and try to come up with something that's a truly balanced approach and makes sense."

The chamber has been willing to discuss increases in employer contributions, he said.

"I think we've come into this acknowledging that employers are part of the solution to pay a little bit more in, so we need some additional discussions on the benefit side to try to address this problem," he said.

On the labor side, benefit cuts are a serious concern.

Matthew Szollosi, executive director of Affiliated Construction Trades Ohio, said his group is opposed to the bill in its current form. He cited the reduction in the maximum weeks an unemployed worker could receive benefits from 26 to 24, and changes to the dependency benefit.

Mr. Szollosi said the process would be difficult, but the bill is a start.

"The bill represents a better starting point than House Bill 620 or House Bill 394, which were awful," he said in an interview. "The bill certainly needs a good bit of work."

The coinsurance proposal is one Mr. Szollosi said he would look more into as an alternative to cuts.

"The concept of the co-premium is intriguing since we strongly prefer a reasonable employee contribution over benefit cuts," he said. "We're open to considering an employee contribution to help achieve a solvent unemployment compensation trust fund."

The current bill is a step forward, he said, because employer and labor groups agreed on a target for solvency. The difficulty is figuring out how to get there.

"Unemployment compensation is a difficult issue," he said. "Employer groups don't want increases and groups representing workers are adamantly against benefit cuts. That makes progress elusive."

House Panel Endorses Down Syndrome Abortion Ban

The House Health Committee on Wednesday advanced a measure to ban abortions based on a Down syndrome diagnosis.

Members voted along party lines, with Democrats opposing the bill ([HB 214](#)), to penalize physicians who perform abortions on patients seeking abortions because prenatal testing has diagnosed Down syndrome.

The bill's sponsors, [Rep. Sarah LaTourette](#) (R-Chagrin Falls) and [Rep. Derek Merrin](#) (R-Maumee), thanked fellow panel members for a respectful debate on the measure.

"This bill is about so much more than abortion. I truly believe it's about discriminating against some of our most vulnerable," Rep. LaTourette said.

[Rep. Nickie Antonio](#) (D-Lakewood) said that while she would never support dictating women's health decisions, the bill raises an important issue that needs addressed in that surveys show many of the women who do prenatal testing and find Down syndrome seek abortions.

"The sponsors and I have talked a little bit about what can we do to actively educate and bring up to speed everyone on what it means to bring a child with Down syndrome into the world in 2017 and going forward so that people make educated decisions," she said.

"But, I will always at the end of the day stand and say that we legislators in this room and in this General Assembly have no right to insert ourselves into the private decisions of a family."

Rep. Emilia Sykes (D-Akron) said she also opposed the measure because it doesn't provide details on the legal process doctors and patients would have to go through as a result.

Opponents argued there is no clear way of determining whether a physician knew about a diagnosis and said the bill could hinder patient-physician relations because patients might be afraid to share information if they know it could lead to punishment.

"I think it is very unfortunate that this committee would take up a felony offense and pass it through without talking about all the considerations," Rep. Sykes said.

Prior to the vote, she introduced an amendment that would ensure patients would not be required to testify in legal cases involving their physicians.

Her proposal was tabled, as were amendments from Rep. Antonio to provide lifelong healthcare to any child who was born because of the bill, and from Rep. Michele Lepore-Hagan (D-Youngstown) to increase special needs education funding by \$210 million, which would restore it to 2014 levels.

Joanna E. Saul, vice president of government affairs and public advocacy for Planned Parenthood Advocates of Ohio, was critical of the committee's actions.

"House Bill 214 intrudes on the patient-doctor relationship and is dangerous by potentially coercing physicians into keeping medical information from their patients, and patients from asking necessary questions about their pregnancy," she said in a statement. "A woman has a human right to bodily autonomy and this bill is part of a broader effort to limit reproductive rights and shame women."

Meanwhile, Ohio Right to Life President Michael Gonidakis applauded lawmakers' support of the bill backed by his organization.

"We are fortunate to live in a state where our government puts people with special needs at the top of the priority list," he said. "We are one step closer to protecting Ohioans with Down syndrome from lethal discrimination," he said in a statement.

A companion measure (SB 164) is currently moving through the Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid committee.

Senate Begins Hearings On Bill To Unravel 'Truth In Sentencing,' Keep Problem Prisoners Behind Bars

Indefinite sentencing could be making a comeback in Ohio after the murder of a college student by a parolee.

Legislation heard for the first time Wednesday in the Senate (SB 201) would allow for an indefinite prison sentence for a first- or second-degree felony or specified third-degree felonies.

Sen. Kevin Bacon (R-Minerva Park), the bill sponsor, told members of the Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee that it will "enhance the capacity of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction both to address violent behavior in prison and to ensure that high level felony and violent offenders are prepared for release."

Current "truth in sentencing" law provides that most offenders with fixed sentences cannot see their terms adjusted based on behavior in prison.

"This has had the unfortunate effect of removing one of the most significant incentives for good behavior in prison," Sen. Bacon said.

Dubbed the "Regan Tokes Act," the bill is named after an Ohio State University student that was murdered earlier this year by Brian Golsby, who was released from prison as scheduled despite 45 infractions behind bars.

Under Sen. Bacon's proposal, the maximum prison term would automatically equal 150% of the minimum range selected by a judge.

"The offender would be eligible for early release at the end of the minimum term based on good behavior. Vitally however, an inmate who behaves violently, is classified as a high threat-level, or who demonstrates a track record of poor behavior in prison can be retained until the culmination of the maximum term," Sen. Bacon said.

"This gives ODRC a powerful incentive to encourage inmates to engage in programming and behave well in prison and provides the state with an additional option for preventing dangerous offenders with a continued record of violence and bad behavior from being released prematurely."

Those not serving time for a sex offense would be eligible for a reduction of up to 15% on the minimum term for exceptional conduct.

Sen. Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman) asked for clarification on the sentencing structure. Sen. Bacon said that if a crime carries a sentencing range of three to 11 years and a judge sentences an offender to five years, the maximum sentence would top out at 7.5 years.

Chairman Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.) asked if the legislation would have prevented the murder of Ms. Tokes.

Sen. Bacon said Mr. Golsby received a six-year sentence as part of a plea agreement on a rape charge. However, under his proposed sentencing structure, Mr. Golsby likely would have served nine years in prison and would have been incarcerated at the time of Ms. Tokes' death.

Another bill heard in committee Wednesday (SB 202), which is also part of the "Reagan Tokes Act," aims to address GPS monitoring procedures and reentry programs for recently released offenders.

Under the legislation, each GPS monitor would be required to specify restriction for the offender, such as exclusionary zones and curfew.

The information gleaned from the monitoring device would be shared among law enforcement agencies.

"Under current Ohio law, law enforcement officers do not have the ability to access GPS information during a criminal investigation without possessing a subpoena. In situations where there is an unusual increase in criminal activity within a defined area, investigators should have every resource available, including GPS information of all recently released parolees, at their disposal without the burden of gratuitous bureaucratic red tape," said the bill's sponsor, Sen. Sean O'Brien (D-Bazetta).

Another provision in the bill would require DRC to establish and implement a reentry program for offenders that may not be eligible to reside in other facilities upon their release due to their violent behavior.

The final portion of the bill would require DRC to establish guidelines on the maximum workload for parole officers.

"The murder of Reagan Tokes is a tragedy that could have been prevented, had we had the proper procedures in place prior to her attacker's release from prison," Sen. O'Brien said. "Senate Bills 201 and 202 are just one small step toward ensuring proper post-release procedures are in place, and that what happened to Reagan never happens to any Ohioan ever again."

Sen. Schiavoni questioned whether a fiscal analysis is available on the bill. "I think it's a worthwhile investment, I'm just wondering what the cost is," he said.

Sen. Bacon said a fiscal analysis will likely be available for the bill's next committee hearing.

A companion bill ([HB 356](#)) has been introduced in the House. (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, September 27, 2017](#))

School Officials Question Bill Placing New Requirements On Credit Card Use

School district treasurers expressed concerns Wednesday with the new requirements in a bill designed to rein in unapproved use of credit cards by local governments.

The proposal ([HB 312](#)) would create new safeguards for entities that use credit cards in an effort to prevent theft.

School officials told the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee that the mandates are unnecessary and would create new burdens for treasurers. They said credit cards, and in particular their rewards programs, can be advantageous to districts.

Maria Rellinger, treasurer and CFO of Apollo Career Center in Lima, said credit cards are a safe method of payment and school district treasurers have adapted their controls to accommodate their use.

"Credit cards are a safe form of payment with no additional risks over paper checks or cash because of the records provided for credit card transactions and also the coverage by the bank should unauthorized charges appear on the account," she said.

She said the use of cards can ensure more accurate payment, such as when a district covers hotel rooms for employees at a conference.

Controls over credit card use, such as detailed receipts, make them just as secure as other methods of payment, she said.

"I share this information with you because I believe the use of credit cards by school districts is a good thing," she said. "The issue is whether or not districts practice the proper controls over any type of expenditure - not just with credit cards. HB312 seems to be over-prescriptive in detailing the practices for credit card use."

Ms. Rellinger said the compliance officer requirement in the bill is redundant and unnecessary. She said the existing accountability system, in which the treasurer is liable for purchase, works.

Rep. Martin J. Sweeney (D-Cleveland) asked how districts use credit card points accrued from the use of obligated funds.

Ms. Rellinger said the rewards are considered general fund dollars, just as transaction costs and bank fees for the spending of restricted dollars come from general fund money.

[Rep. Bill Seitz](#) (R-Cincinnati) said his understanding of the bill meant districts wouldn't need a compliance officer unless someone other than the treasurer controls the credit card.

"It could be the superintendent of schools or it could be the CEO of the library system, so that it's not necessarily as burdensome as you make out with those changes," he said.

Ms. Rellinger said her assistant treasurer handles the checking in and out of credit cards, meaning even her small office would need a compliance officer. Unlike the treasurer, she said, that compliance officer would not be liable for misspent money.

Rep. Seitz said the bill is a balancing act.

"Most of us are against unnecessary government mandates and all of us are against fraud," he said. "We're trying to find that happy space where both can be accommodated."

Janice Allen, treasurer and CFO of Trotwood-Madison City School District, said her district has three credit cards it uses to pay for workers' compensation premiums and other costs.

"There are strong fiscal controls that surround the use of these cards," she said. "Sub HB312 should require a board policy on credit cards, but allow local flexibility in the policy provisions to account for each district's unique circumstances. Further, the bill should not require districts to change their current policies. If districts do not have strong enough policies, perhaps the auditor of state could request districts to update their policies."

She said the new mandates in the bill will add more work for treasurers and CFOs at districts across the state.

"I advocate for myself and all my colleagues that this bill needs to have a more streamlined approach and not a punitive overtone for all the districts that are following the rules and regulations of their district," she said.

Chairman Rep. Louis Blessing (R-Cincinnati) said he did not believe the bill as written would affect districts like hers that have strong controls in place.

Skeptical Lawmakers Question Proponents Of Piping Material Bill

Should the state preempt local governments when it comes to selecting pipe material for public projects? Lawmakers aren't so sure.

More than a dozen individuals on Wednesday provided testimony in favor of a measure to require public entities to consider all piping materials that meet engineering specifications for state-funded water and wastewater projects. Lawmakers, however, expressed some skepticism.

Jenn Klein, president of the Ohio Chemistry Technology Council, told members of the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee that the bill (SB 95) "makes common sense improvements as to how scarce state resources are spent on critical infrastructure."

Ms. Klein said the measure will allow for open competition and level the playing field for all products.

"It simply requires that when state money is being spent, an engineer has the ability to use his or her professional training to evaluate all products they know are appropriate," she said.

Currently in Ohio, many jurisdictions limit the materials used in water and wastewater projects, according to Ms. Klein. About one-third of Ohioans live in those jurisdictions, she said.

Sen. Jay Hottinger (R-Newark) questioned why the issue is not dealt with on the local level.

Ms. Klein said concerns have been taken to local officials in those jurisdictions and largely dismissed.

Sen. Hottinger also asked about a situation in which a water main breaks and whether a local community would be required to bid for materials.

Ms. Klein said that is not the intent, and added that her organization is looking at language to address emergency situations.

Sen. Sean O'Brien (D-Bazetta) raised concerns about language in the bill that says local officials "shall" consider all materials. He said that could open local entities up to lawsuits.

An amendment addressing that issue is being crafted, Ms. Klein said.

Sen. Michael Skindell (D- Lakewood) said he fears the legislation could greatly increase the workload of local officials by forcing them to consider materials on a case-by-case basis.

The intent of the legislation is not to create more work for local officials, Ms. Klein said.

John Serrano, director of government affairs for the Vinyl Institute, said Ohio's drinking and wastewater infrastructure needs an investment of \$26 billion over the next 20 years.

"There is a lack of choice and limit on competition that has created local monopolies in pipe markets and increased the costs of funding new and replacement projects at a time when budgets are already tight," he said. "There is no reason our cities and water engineers should be prohibited from choosing the most appropriate pipe material for their project. There is no reason local monopolies should be allowed to dictate what's best for the people of Ohio."

Micah Derry, state director for Americans for Prosperity - Ohio, said the measure will be a key vote on the group's legislative scorecard. He said the legislation has the potential to reduce the cost of water and wastewater projects by as much as 32%, saving municipalities more than \$8.5 billion.

"These costs are not small for many towns and municipalities and granting flexibility on the materials used in these projects could drastically reduce the burdens on these local units of government," he said.

But Sen. Skindell said local officials that have restricted the use of certain piping have done so because they are concerned about chemicals leaching into water supplies.

"Why should we trump that decision-making process at the local level?" he asked.

Mr. Derry said technology in the field of chemistry is developing at a rapid pace.

"Legislative bodies in this state have not caught up and modernized," he said.

Douglas Keller of Equistar Chemicals said the legislation will allow for the expertise of project engineers to be utilized.

"Project engineers in the potable water and wastewater management fields should be allowed to select the most durable, efficient, suitable, and cost effective material that meets the engineering needs of the system design," he said. "Model specifications for plastic piping materials are available from trade organizations, pipe manufacturers and other American municipalities to aid Ohio project engineers in updating their purchasing specifications."

Matthew Kuwatch, vice president of marketing and business development at Aurora Plastics, said the bill has the potential to help small businesses.

"Senate Bill 95 is a simple solution to a very real problem. There are market barriers and regulatory monopolies holding us back. And while it impacts our business and employees, it also affects every citizen of Ohio who pays higher water rates," he said.

Also providing proponent testimony were representatives of ISCO Industries, the Uni-Bell PVC Pipe Association, Engineered Profiles LLC, the Plastics Pipe Institute, the Oatey Co. and the American Chemistry Council. Andrew Olah and Alan Olson also provided proponent testimony.

Similar legislation (HB214, 131st General Assembly) died in committee last year.

Human Services Agencies Support Bill To Increase Information Sharing

Representatives from human services agencies told a House panel Wednesday that the lack of easy, online access to various information databases can slow down and hinder their ability to provide services.

They urged the House Community and Family Advancement Committee to support legislation (HB 340) that would break down barriers between caseworkers and information they have legal access to, but often must work through bureaucratic hurdles to obtain.

"Improvements with information sharing would significantly enhance our ability to service Ohioans, provide better comprehensive case management, ensure program integrity and help safeguard the health and wellbeing of our clients and workers," said Joel Potts, executive director of the Ohio Job and Family Services Directors' Association.

Mr. Potts said caseworkers are required to use different computer systems to provide services to clients who often participate in more than one program. In many cases, the necessary information is difficult to access and verify, which causes delays and frustration, he said.

Agencies are not requesting full access to each computer system or access to information that is not already available to them, he said.

Increasing access to information that already exists would allow caseworkers to make the system run more efficiently and effectively, he said.

The current process gives county agencies access to these files, but they can only be used through a paper process.

Chairman Rep. Tim Ginter (R-Salem) asked if any of the systems can connect with each other.

Mr. Potts said the systems mostly don't connect, and there can be even more complications if the information is requested across county lines.

Rep. Sarah LaTourette (R-Chagrin Falls) asked if the changes could be done by the administration.

"We don't need legislation to do a lot of this, but without legislation we're going in the wrong direction," Mr. Potts said.

Mr. Potts told Rep. Ron Young (R-Leroy) that it was difficult for caseworkers to provide comprehensive case management without ready access to different databases of information.

"The more information we have, the better we can provide that comprehensive case management," he said.

Matthew Battiato, director of Lake County Job and Family Services, provided examples of when appropriate "read-only" access to information will provide better customer service, increase efficiency, and help employees fulfill their mission.

Mr. Battiato said allowing children services workers to access all available information before knocking on a family's door will better prepare them for their own safety and the safety and well-being of the child. It can also streamline the process of verifying if a family is eligible for reimbursements, he added.

Amy Roehrenbeck, executive director for the Ohio CSEA Directors' Association, said most child support workers don't have access to information about other human services benefits, such as Medicaid.

"As technology has evolved, our programs have lagged behind, especially in the area of data sharing," she said.

While the bill doesn't specifically apply to child support enforcement agencies, she urged the committee to include them.

Angela Sausser, executive director of Public Children Services Association of Ohio, said in written testimony that the effect of inefficient data sharing can be serious for children services. She explained that children services

agencies rarely have comprehensive medical records or history for a child when they remove them from the home. The lack of information inhibits them from fully caring for the child, she said.

Ms. Sausser gave the example of a diabetic child who is dependent on insulin and is removed from their home. "The PCSA has no way of knowing the child requires insulin if the parent does not share that information, putting the child at medical risk," she said.

"Having read-only access to Medicaid's Information Technology System (MITS) could help the PCSA learn this information if the child was insured through Medicaid," she added.

High Court: Sexual Imposition Charges Involving Two Young Children May Be Dismissed

A divided Ohio Supreme Court found Wednesday that a juvenile court did not err in dismissing gross sexual imposition charges against a minor under the age of 13 who engaged in sexual conduct with another young child.

Writing for the majority, Justice Bill O'Neill found that the Franklin County court had the authority to end the criminal prosecution and order treatment at an early stage of the proceedings.

"A juvenile court's primary concern is not always to determine culpability for acts that would be crimes if committed by an adult," Justice O'Neill wrote in the court's decision.

"As we have recognized in the past, holding a formal proceeding to determine whether a child was motivated by innocent curiosity or by culpable sexual gratification may be as bad or worse for the children involved - and for society - as was the act itself. The juvenile court must exercise its discretion in deciding the best course, and we owe substantial deference to the court's decision,"

The case stems from 2013 delinquency charges filed against a 12-year-old boy who engaged in sexual conduct with another boy who was almost 10, the high court's media arm reported.

The boy asked the court to dismiss the charges, arguing that it is unconstitutional to apply the gross sexual imposition law to minors under the age of 13 who engage in sexual conduct with another minor under the age of 13 and that the court had discretion to dismiss criminal charges.

The request was first denied by a juvenile magistrate. However, a juvenile court judge dismissed the charges. In dismissing the case, the judge found that it would be arbitrary to charge just one of the children since no threat of force or violence was involved.

The decision was appealed to the Tenth District Court of Appeals, which agreed with the prosecution and remanded the case to juvenile court.

The child then asked the high court to take up the appellate court's ruling.

"Given our conclusion that the juvenile court did not act unreasonably in the circumstances, we cannot substitute our own judgment in place of the order of that court. Likewise, the court of appeals should not have reversed the order to dismiss," Justice O'Neill wrote.

The majority, however, did not address the constitutional issue.

Justice O'Neill was joined in his opinion by Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor and Justice Terrence O'Donnell.

Justice Patrick Fischer concurred with the decision that the court did not abuse its discretion in dismissing the charges. However, he found the majority's decision to be broad.

"I do not join the lead opinion, however, because the lead opinion uses language that could be interpreted as an expansion of the material rights of juveniles when there is no basis in law to support such an expansion," he

wrote.

Justice Sharon Kennedy wrote in a dissent that the court's majority "fails to adhere to our fundamental role as members of the judiciary when interpreting court rules."

"When a court rule is plain and unambiguous, we apply it as written," she wrote. "Because the language of Juv.R. 9 is plain and unambiguous and does not grant a juvenile court authority to dismiss a formally filed charge, the juvenile court abused its discretion in dismissing the delinquency complaint in this case," she wrote.

She was joined in her opinion by Justice Judith French and Justice Patrick DeWine.

Retiree Advocates Vote To Oppose Recent OPERS Cost-Of-Living Proposal

Board members of a group representing public retirees has voted to oppose recent cost-of-living adjustment changes proposed by the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System.

After a nearly two hour discussion, the board of Public Employee Retirees, Inc. voted 12-0 to oppose the OPERS board's recent approval of a recommendation to link COLAs to the Consumer Price Index and cap them at 2.25%.

"There is really no need for OPERS to take the option at this time," PERI CEO Geoff Hetrick said, describing the board's rationale. "They're on solid financial footing - and those are (the system's) words, not mine."

In response, OPERS spokesman Todd Hutchins said the system's trustees spent months discussing the changes "while carefully considering feedback from our members and retirees."

"The final proposal incorporates feedback we received from those meetings with stakeholders," Mr. Hutchins said. "The board believes their recommendations will improve the long-term solvency of the system."

OPERS trustees adopted the plan Oct. 18, with two members representing retirees voting against the move. If approved by lawmakers the change would reduce unfunded liabilities about \$4 billion by moving away from the current 3% flat COLA. (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, October 18, 2017](#))

PERI's board had previously pledged support for a 2.5% cap proposal OPERS had considered. But when OPERS amended the proposal last week to a 2.25% cap following a motion by board member Herman Mollmann, that support was placed in jeopardy.

Mr. Hetrick described the PERI board's deliberations as "lengthy and spirited," but said the final decision was unanimous in rejecting OPERS' action.

"They're perplexed that OPERS would feel motivated to take this kind of action to substantially reduce the cost-of-living adjustment benefit when they're in such a strong financial position," Mr. Hetrick said of his board members.

He said the board authorized staff to "look at several options" to advocate its position going forward. He added that PERI will communicate with its members soon on next steps.

A message posted online said PERI is "in the process of planning action to address this situation and will inform retirees of steps they should take to assist us in our efforts to mitigate the decision by OPERS board."

Governor's Appointments

Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission: Sheriff Larry L. Sims of Springboro for a term beginning Oct. 25 and ending Aug. 21, 2021.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Thursday, October 26

State Board of Education, 26 S. Front St., Columbus, 1 p.m. (Gifted Advisory Council)

Broadcast Educational Media Commission, 2470 North Star Rd., Columbus, 2 p.m. (Finance Committee)

Tuesday, November 14


House Speaker's Task Force on Alzheimer's and Dementia, Netzley Rm. (004), Statehouse, Columbus, 1 p.m.

17 S. High St., Suite 630

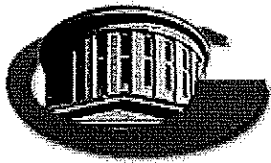
Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | **Fax:** 614-221-7844 | **Email:** gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed,
Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

© 2017, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.



GONGWER Ohio
The Record of Capitol Square Since 1906

Senate Activity for Wednesday, October 25, 2017

INTRODUCED

SB USED TIRES (LaRose, F.) To prohibit the installation of unsafe used tires on certain motor vehicles. Am. **223** ■ 1345.99 & En. 1345.022

SCR COMMERCIAL TRUCKS (Yuko, K.) To urge Congress to enact legislation requiring commercial **16** ■ trucks to use side guards and establishing side guard technical specifications.

PASSED

HB PROPERTY TAX COMPLAINTS (Merrin, D.) To expressly prohibit the dismissal of a property tax **118** ■ complaint for failure to correctly identify the property owner.

32-0

Gongwer Coverage

SB WASTE COLLECTION VEHICLES (LaRose, F.) To require motor vehicle operators to take certain **127** ■ actions upon approaching a stationary waste collection vehicle collecting refuse on a roadside.

32-0

Gongwer Coverage

SB LEGAL MATERIALS (Skindell, M., Eklund, J.) To adopt the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act. **139** ■

32-0; Earlier REPORTED (No testimony)

Gongwer Coverage

SENATE CONCURS IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS

SB 3 WEEK DESIGNATION (Beagle, B., Balderson, T.) To designate the first week of May as In-Demand **■** Jobs Week.

32-0

REFERRED

Education:

SB 191 SCHOOL BREAKFAST (Schiavoni, J.) To establish the Breakfast After The Bell Program for public **■** schools.

Government Oversight & Reform:

SB AGENCY RULEMAKING (Uecker, J.) To amend, for the purpose of adopting a new section number as **221** indicated in parentheses, section 127.18 (106.024); to enact sections 101.352, 101.353, 106.032, 121.93, 121.931, 121.932, and 121.933; and to repeal section 121.76 of the Revised Code to reform agency rule-making and legislative review thereof.

Health, Human Services & Medicaid:

HB DENTISTRY (Gavarone, T., DeVitis, T.) To authorize the provision of dental services through teledentistry, **184** to require a proposal for creation of a primary care dental student component of the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program, and to make other changes to the laws governing the practices of dentistry and dental hygiene.

SB LONG-TERM CARE (Tavares, C.) To create a long-term care inspection committee.
193

Judiciary:

HB FIREARMS TRAINING (Retherford, W., Hagan, C.) To provide for firearms training for tactical medical **79** professionals; to permit such a professional who has received that training and has been authorized by the law enforcement agency to carry firearms while on duty; and to grant such a professional the same right to carry a concealed handgun in this state as a concealed handgun licensee.

SB VEHICLE TOWING (Terhar, L.) To require only one notice to be sent to a vehicle owner and any known **194** lienholder after a vehicle is towed from a private tow-away zone.

SB MARRIAGE AGE (Yuko, K.) To make changes to the laws governing the ages for which persons may **198** marry.

SB STRANGULATION (Kunze, S.) To expand the offense of felonious assault to include knowingly causing **207** or attempting to cause physical harm to another person by means of strangulation or suffocation.

Transportation, Commerce & Workforce:

SB ROAD NAMING (Tavares, C.) To designate a portion of U.S. Route 33 in Franklin County as the "Senator **189** John W. E. Bowen III Memorial Highway."

SB BRIDGE NAMING (Schiavoni, J.) To designate the bridge spanning State Route 11, that is part of **212** Mahoning Avenue in Austintown Township in Mahoning County, as the "Women Veterans Bridge."

Ways & Means:

HBVETERAN ORGANIZATIONS (Ginter, T.) To modify the existing tax exemption for veterans' organizations' property to include property of certain veterans organizations exempt from federal taxation under section 501C(4) of the Internal Revenue Code and to exclude property that is not used primarily for meetings, administration, and the provision of programs and services to past and present members of the United States armed forces.

HBSALES TAX (Merrin, D.) To exempt prescription eyeglasses, contact lenses, and other optical aids sold by licensed dispensers from sales and use tax.

SB TAX EXEMPTIONS (Coley, B.) To modify the conditions that determine the relative priority of property tax exemptions when a parcel subject to a tax increment financing arrangement concurrently qualifies for another exemption.

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Ways & Means

SB GARBAGE FEES (O'Brien, S.) To authorize all municipal corporations that charge a garbage collection fee to certify unpaid amounts to the county auditor, who must enter the fees on the property tax list to be collected in the same manner as real property taxes. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Sen. Sean O'Brien (D-Bazetta) said his bill "would allow all Ohio municipal corporations that charge residents for garbage collection fees to certify unpaid amounts to the county auditor. The county auditor, in turn, would be required to enter those fees on the property tax list to be collected in the same manner as real property taxes."

Under current law, only municipal corporations located in charter counties may certify unpaid garbage collection fees for collection through a property tax lien, the sponsor explained. Constituents in Ashtabula brought the matter to his attention, he said. It's one of many Ohio cities not located in the two charter counties currently in existence in Ohio, and thus has no mechanism by which to enforce unpaid fees.

Sen. O'Brien reason behind the differing laws are unclear, nevertheless "it is an oversight that needs to be corrected."

"Essentially, by not providing a uniform, state-level, mechanism for the collection of these fees across all municipalities, this section of ORC language is currently allowing the citizens of most municipalities in Ohio - in other words, those not located in either Cuyahoga or Summit County - to break local laws and forgo paying legally-levied fees," he said.

In addition, the sponsor said state law specifies that the fees must be certified to the county fiscal officer versus the county auditor. The bill also addresses that issue, which has created further confusion in his district, he said.

Responding to questions from Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City), the sponsor said the bill would level the playing field on garbage collection fees for all counties, and that the bill is specific to that issue and doesn't address other fees because it was the only matter brought to his attention in that regard.

Government Oversight & Reform

SB LEGAL MATERIALS (Skindell, M., Eklund, J.) To adopt the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act. 139 (REPORTED (No testimony); 6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

SB PRISON TERMS (Bacon, K., O'Brien, S.) To provide for indefinite prison terms for first or second degree felonies and specified third degree felonies, with presumptive release of offenders sentenced to such a term at the end of the minimum term; to generally allow the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction to reduce the minimum term for exceptional conduct or adjustment to incarceration; to allow the Department to rebut the release presumption and keep the offender in prison up to the maximum term if it makes specified

findings; and to name the act's provisions the Reagan Tokes Law. **(CONTINUED (See separate story); 1st Hearing-Sponsor)**

SB OFFENDER RE-ENTRY (Bacon, K., O'Brien, S.) To require the Department of Rehabilitation and **202**Correction to establish a reentry program for all offenders released from prison who it intends to have reside in a halfway house or similar facility but who are not accepted by any such facility; to require the Adult Parole Authority to establish maximum work-load and case-load standards for its parole and field officers and have enough trained officers to comply with the standards; to require that GPS monitoring used for offenders released from prison under such monitoring specify restrictions, including inclusionary zones and necessary exclusionary zones; to require the Department to establish system requirements for GPS monitoring of such offenders by the Department or third-party contract administrators; to require the Department to operate a statewide database for law enforcement use containing specified information about such offenders; to require that third-party administrators for GPS monitoring under a new contract with the Department provide and use a law enforcement-accessible crime scene correlation program; and to name the act's provisions the Reagan Tokes Law. **(CONTINUED (See separate story); 1st Hearing-Sponsor)**

SB ONLINE COMMUNICATIONS (Huffman, M.) To enact the Ohio Citizen Participation Act to provide **206**protections to persons who engage in certain specified protected communications and to protect the identity of persons who anonymously engage in online communications under certain circumstances. **(CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)**

The legislation is designed to "provide protection for individuals exercising their constitutional right to free speech against frivolous lawsuits designed to stifle opposition," Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) said in sponsor testimony.

"Such a lawsuit is essentially a game of legal attrition, sending a message to potential critics that those who speak out will face stress, time commitments, and expensive legal bills over a period of months or even years that many defendants cannot endure," he said.

The legislation aims to expedite the process of dismissal for such lawsuits and includes protections for online commenters facing litigation.

"Should this legislation be enacted, Ohio would join twenty-eight states that have already adopted similar laws to protect the rights to free speech," Sen. Huffman said. "The Ohio Citizen Participation Act is supported by numerous groups and individuals of diverse backgrounds and political affiliations such as the ACLU, ALEC, the Ohio News Media Association, and the Ohio Domestic Violence Network."

Chairman Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.) questioned why existing court rules are not enough to deal with such lawsuits.

Sen. Huffman said a motion for summary judgement is the most commonly used method to dispose of such a case. However, he said it can often be a long and costly process to reach that point.

Governor's Appointments: The committee recommended full Senate approval of the appointments of Marcella Boyd Cox to the Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors, and Pandora Shaw Dupras, Matthew Rubin and Pamela Steurer to the Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism.

Energy & Natural Resources


SB PIPING MATERIALS (Terhar, L.) To require a public authority to consider all piping materials that meet **95** the engineering specifications for a state-funded water or waste water project. **(CONTINUED (See separate story); 2nd Hearing-Proponent)**

Subscriber's Note: For full written testimony, see the committee's website under Oct.25.

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | **Fax:** 614-221-7844 | **Email:** gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed,
Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

© 2017, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.



Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

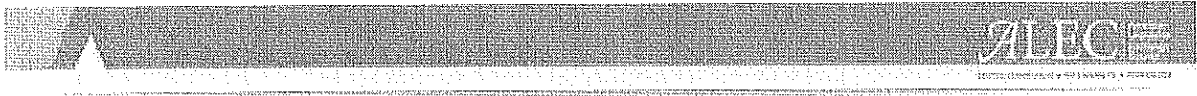
Your ALEC Digital Exchange 10/26/2017

1 message

American Legislative Exchange Council <ahackbarth@alec.org>

Thu, Oct 26, 2017 at 4:06 PM

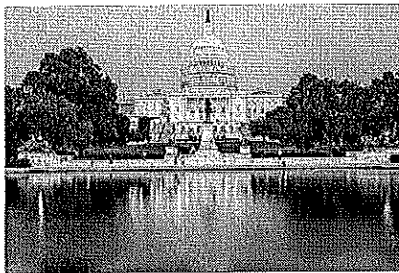
To: latoursm@gmail.com

To view this email as a web page, go [here](#).**Digital Exchange - October 26, 2017**

Facebook



Twitter

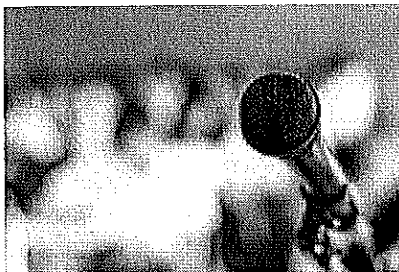
Tomorrow: ALEC - Federal Coalition Partners Conference Call

Tomorrow the ALEC - Federal Coalition Partners are hosting a call with representatives from the U.S. House, Senate and White House coalition teams. They will bring you an up to date report on what is going on around Capitol Hill and the White House.

The call will take place **Friday, October 27 at 3 p.m. ET.**

[Register for the Call](#)**ALEC In The States****Shelby Emmett Advises CA Senate on Protecting Campus Free Speech**

Shelby Emmett | Center to Protect Free Speech



On October 18, California lawmakers heard from Shelby Emmett, Director of the ALEC Center to Protect Free Speech. She spoke about the issue of free speech on college campuses. Emmett shared, "You should never look at policy based on the 1% of knuckleheads, and instead remember that the majority of people in California are doing this the right way."

[Watch Video](#)

Hear From the Experts

Jonathan Williams and Joel Griffith Talk Tax Reform

Center for State Fiscal Reform



Jonathan Williams, ALEC Chief Economist and Vice President of the Center for State Fiscal Reform and Joel Griffith, Director of the Center for State Fiscal Reform had a discussion about the week in tax reform.

[Watch Video](#)

Legislator Voices

State Legislators Support Eliminating the SALT Deduction



Hear from state legislators talking about tax reform, and why they support the repeal of the state and local tax (SALT) deduction. Legislators from both high- and low-tax states explain why this is an incredibly important issue.

[Watch Playlist](#)

Expert Opinion

Electricity Reliability In A "Smart" America

Garland McCoy | President, Technology Education Institute



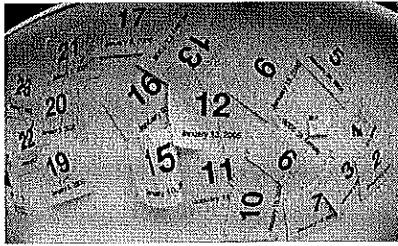
For more than 130 years, all America needed to be "operational" was electricity. That is no longer the case. Today many of these functions — as well as the "smart" in our new Smart Grid — resides in the "cloud" and relies on connectivity with Internet infrastructure facilities. Today, electricity alone will not provide "operational integrity".

[Read More](#)

Important SNPS Update

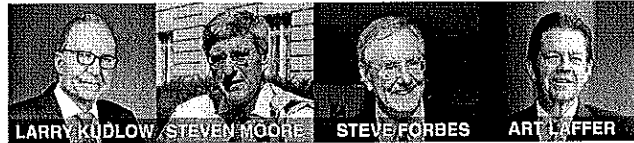
35 Day Mailer Coming Soon

On **November 2, 2017** ALEC will release the 35-day mailer. This will contain a draft of the Task Force meeting agendas and model policies scheduled for consideration and review at the Task Force meeting. Watch your inbox for this important update. Information will also be available on your task force page at ALEC.org.



States and Nation Policy Summit '17

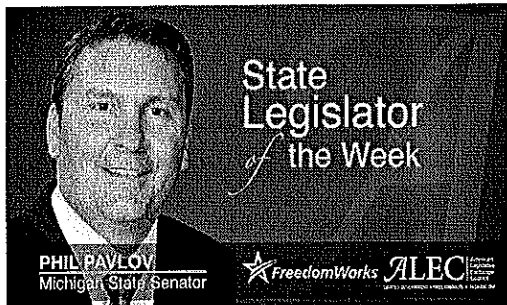
Early Bird Registration Ending Soon!



Early bird registration ends November 4. We have an amazing line up of speakers that you do not want to miss.

[Register for SNPS](#)

Bringing Pension Reform to Michigan



This week, ALEC and FreedomWorks introduce Michigan State Senator Phil Pavlov from the 25th district. Pavlov represents Michigan's Thumb, Huron County, St Clair County, Sanilac County and parts of Macomb County. A previous member of Michigan's House of Representatives, Pavlov is serving his second term in the Senate.

[Read More](#)



Facebook



Twitter



LinkedIn

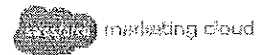


YouTube

This email was sent to: latoursm@gmail.com

This email was sent by: American Legislative Exchange Council
2900 Crystal Drive, Suite 600 Arlington, VA 22202 United States

Powered by



We respect your right to privacy - [view our policy](#)

[Manage Subscriptions](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)



Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

Ohio Report, Friday, October 27, 2017

1 message

Gongwer News Service <gongwerreports@gongwer-oh.com>

Fri, Oct 27, 2017 at 6:21 PM

To: sml@sarahlatourette.com

[OHIO REPORT](#)[View in a browser](#)[News](#) [Bill Tracking](#) [Legislation](#)

OHIO REPORT FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27

Lawmaker: No 'Fireworks' Expected For Medicaid Funding Request At Controlling Board Monday

Tiberi's Congressional Seat Drawing Interest From Several State Lawmakers

Kasich Touts Job Growth, Talks Tech Industry Developments

FirstEnergy CEO Expects Legislative Approval Of ZEN Bills In 1Q 2018

Transportation Officials Highlight Social Impacts Of New Technology At OSU Event; Ed Panel Talks Research

High Court Seeks Input On Grand Jury Records Change; DOJ Settles With Tea Party Groups; ACLU Releases Bail Report...

Agency Briefs: BWC Board Gets Analysis Of House Bill; State Sends Guard Help To Puerto Rico; SOS; Labor Force; IG; Lottery; AG; PUCO; ODNR; Statehouse

Ohio Business: AEP, FirstEnergy, Goodyear, Dana, Owens Corning, Timken, Others Report Earnings

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Supplemental Event Planner

CALENDARS

Day Planner

Legislative Committee Schedules

Event Planner

Please send all correspondence to gongwer@gongwer-oh.com. This mailbox is not regularly monitored.


[View as a Web Page](#)


Copyright 2017, Gongwer News Service/Ohio
17 S. High St., Suite 630, Columbus OH 43215


All Rights Reserved. This message and any attachments may not be forwarded or reproduced without express permission from Gongwer News Service.

[unsubscribe](#)

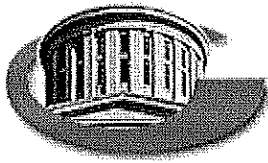
4 attachments

 **171027dayplan.htm**
5K

 **Oct27.htm**
65K

 **171027plan.htm**
14K

 **Oct30Schedule.htm**
61K



GONGWER Ohio
The Record of Capitol Square Since 1906

Daily Activity Planner for Saturday, October 28- Monday, October 30

Legislative Committees

No legislative committees scheduled.

Agency Calendar

Monday, October 30

Tax Credit Authority, Rm. South A, 31st Fl., 77 S. High St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

Controlling Board, North Hearing Rm., Senate Bldg., Columbus, 1:30 p.m.

Event Planner

Sunday, October 29

Ohio Democratic Party state dinner, Greater Columbus Convention Center, 400 N. High St., Columbus, 4:30 p.m., (Featured speaker: Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe)

Democratic gubernatorial debate, Greater Columbus Convention Center, 400 N. High St., Columbus, 6 p.m.

Monday, October 30

Gov. John Kasich to address Kasich to address leaders of Keidanren, an economic organization with membership of more than 1,300 Japanese companies, Statehouse Atrium, Columbus, 12 p.m.

JobsOhio media availability on Ohio & Japan trade relationship, State Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 2:30 p.m.

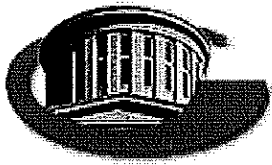
Sen. Frank Hoagland (R-Adena) fundraiser, The Galley, 203 2nd St., Marietta, 5:30 p.m., (Special Guest Congressman Bill Johnson. \$1,000 Chair | \$500 Host | \$250 Sponsor | \$150 per Couple | \$100 per Individual to Hoagland for Ohio)

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | **Fax:** 614-221-7844 | **Email:** gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed,
Staff Writers

© 2017, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.



GONGWER Ohio

The Record of Capitol Square Since 1906

Volume #86, Report #208 -- Friday, October 27, 2017

Lawmaker: No 'Fireworks' Expected For Medicaid Funding Request At Controlling Board Monday

The Department of Medicaid will make its first request Monday before the Controlling Board for funding held back in the state budget, and one panelist downplayed the potential for majority GOP lawmakers to block the move.

While the delay in providing the funding and the additional oversight has prompted some consternation, conservative Sen. Jay Hottinger (R-Newark) said in an interview he didn't anticipate any drama.

"I don't expect any fireworks or anything of significant interest," he said.



Sen. Hottinger

The money - \$264 million from the state Health and Human Services Fund - is used to draw down federal money for a total of more than \$900 million in Medicaid funding for Fiscal Year 2018, according to a memo from the Governor's Office of Health Transformation.

Next fiscal year, the administration will have to request another \$311 million from the board in order to draw down federal funds for a total of nearly \$1.1 billion.

The administration says the funding is vital for the Medicaid program to function.

"Without these funds, Ohio Medicaid would have to cut provider payments 16 percent effective January 1 in order to keep Ohio's budget in balance," the OHT memo said. "Those cuts would include home health, behavioral health, doctors, hospitals and others - all types of providers except nursing homes, which the legislature protected from any rate reduction."

"Alternatively, if the funds are not released or the rates are not reduced, then Medicaid is projected to run out of money in May 2018 and be unable to pay all providers, including nursing homes," the memo continued.

Sen. Hottinger said inaction by the Controlling Board would have serious effects on the program.

"If for some reason the Controlling Board would choose not to act, there would be significant cuts that would be imposed on the poor and medically fragile people," he said.

The request comes after lawmakers added language to the biennial budget bill (HB 49) giving the Controlling Board greater authority over Medicaid spending. The language requires the Medicaid director to come before the board for a set amount of the program's budget.

Gov. John Kasich vetoed the provision, saying the provision also restricts the board from releasing funds if Congress reduces the percentage of federal funding for Medicaid.

"This limits the ability of the Medicaid director to effectively and efficiently manage the Medicaid program and obstructs the Administration's authority to maintain the fiscal stability and programmatic integrity that it has successfully established for the program," the governor wrote in his veto message.

Lawmakers overrode the governor's veto. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 22, 2017)

The funding affects the whole Medicaid program, not just the Medicaid expansion. Sen. Hottinger said that while the Medicaid expansion has been a hot topic among legislators, with lawmakers still weighing an override of veto of a freeze on new expansion enrollment, Monday's Controlling Board request "isn't the place to re-litigate that issue."

"The state of Ohio already went down the path of Medicaid expansion four years ago," he said. "That horse is out of the gate and long gone. If there is going to be a decision to scale back or claw back or repeal the expansion, there's a time and a place for that. That's certainly not a Controlling Board prerogative."

The item will likely provide an opportunity for members of the panel to ask about different parts of the Medicaid program, including enrollment.

"Anytime there's an appropriation or a release of appropriated funds that come before the Controlling Board, it's a great opportunity for questions," Sen. Hottinger said.

Tiberi's Congressional Seat Drawing Interest From Several State Lawmakers

A crowded field is expected for the special Republican primary to replace retiring U.S. Rep. Pat Tiberi (R-Galena), and many state lawmakers are eyeing the coveted congressional seat.

In interviews with a half dozen state lawmakers who live in the district, none ruled out the possibility of entering the race.

Mr. Tiberi announced plans to retire by Jan. 31, but jockeying for his seat in the 12th Congressional District has already begun. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 19, 2017)

Sen. Jay Hottinger (R-Newark) said a recently commissioned poll showed him leading the field of potential candidates.

"That's something that's certainly very encouraging and gives me a lot to ponder," he said.

Sen. Hottinger, who has served in the General Assembly since 1995, said several factors will come into play when making a decision about a potential congressional bid, including the time he would have to spend away from his family, his love for his current role in the upper chamber and dysfunction in Washington, D.C.

"There are months when I'll get two bills signed into law. For some congressmen, that might be a career," he said.

Family considerations will also be a major factor for Sen. Kris Jordan (R-Ostrander).

"I'm interested. I'm looking at the option because it's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," he said. "I'm weighing how it's going to affect my children and also the likelihood of being successful."

The district includes all of Delaware, Licking, and Morrow counties along with portions of Franklin, Marion, Muskingum and Richland counties.

Delaware County - where Sen. Jordan's political career began at the age of 25 when he was elected to serve as a county commissioner - makes up nearly one-third of the sprawling district. The term-limited lawmaker believes that would be to his advantage.

"I think I'm in a strong position, but again, it's not just win or lose. It's also the family aspect and other things I'm going to look at when making a decision, but I'm strongly considering it," he said.

Another Delaware County lawmaker weighing a bid is first-term Rep. Rick Carfagna (R-Westerville). In addition to his family, his current role at the Statehouse and the potential to have to run in as many as four elections over the course of less than one year will play a role in his decision-making.

Depending on when Rep. Tiberi steps down, winning the seat could require winning in a special primary election, a special general election, the May primary election and the November general election. Gov. John Kasich, who has ruled out a run for the seat, will set the dates of the special elections once the seat is officially vacated.

"If I'm going to proceed, I'd want to make sure that I have the confidence, not just of the people of the 12th District, but also the party leaders, the business community and potential donors to give a campaign of this magnitude the credibility that it commands," Rep. Carfagna said.

There is a possibility that a state lawmaker could run in the special primary election, lose and still be able to run to retain their Statehouse seat. However, that depends on the timing of the Mr. Tiberi's official resignation and the date Gov. Kasich sets for the special primary election, according to Sam Rossi, spokesman for Secretary of State Jon Husted.

The third member of the three-person Delaware County Statehouse delegation, Rep. Andy Brenner (R-Powell), has announced his intention to seek Sen. Jordan's seat next year.

Among other officials planning to seek the GOP nomination for the congressional seat is Delaware County Prosecutor Carol O'Brien.

Rep. Jim Hughes (R-Columbus) said he is currently gauging the community and business support he would have for a congressional bid. A member of the legislature since 2000, Rep. Hughes said his phone has been "blowing up" with people encouraging him to run.

"Business leaders and community leaders are encouraging me to look at it. What I'm doing right now is I'm in the information stage in terms of getting information back, seeing how strong that support is, and what I'll do is I'll make a decision once I get that information," he said.

Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) said he has yet to discuss a potential congressional bid with anyone. But he also refused to rule it out.

"The people that have got me to where I am today will be in there and we'll just kind of evaluate," he said.

Another member of the upper chamber evaluating a potential run is Sen. Kevin Bacon (R-Minerva Park).

"I'm taking a hard look at it, making a lot of calls," he said. "The response has been very positive to this point. I'm not making any announcement yet."

Sen. Bacon said the fact that he lives in Franklin County might not be much of a disadvantage in a district dominated more by Delaware and Licking counties.

"With any race, you have to assess strengths and weaknesses and look at the overall dynamic. That is one factor, but then there are some unknown factors," he said. "We don't know who's going to get in. You also have fundraising ability, you have grassroots, whether or not you can outwork the opponents."

Another lawmaker in the district, Rep. Anne Gonzales (R-Westerville), has announced her intention to seek the seat of term-limited Sen. Bacon.

Other names that have been floated as potential candidates are Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) and Rep. Wes Goodman (R-Cardington). Neither returned calls seeking comment by publication time.

Republican Brandon Grisez announced his candidacy before Rep. Tiberi made his plans to resign publicly known.

Franklin County Auditor Clarence Mingo had also been rumored to be interested in the race, but he recently dropped a bid for state auditor and announced he would instead seek reelection.

On the Democratic side, Ed Albertson, John Peters and Doug Wilson have filed to run for the heavily Republican seat. Franklin County Recorder Danny O'Connor is also reportedly interested in the race.

Kasich Touts Job Growth, Talks Tech Industry Developments

Gov. John Kasich Friday said Ohio has gained 490,700 jobs since he took office, crediting the growth to the state's business climate and economic development efforts.

Speaking at a meeting of JobsOhio officials in Grandview Heights, the governor also discussed potential investments from high-tech companies like Google and Amazon, saying the state should focus on becoming a more diversified economy.

"I think the key to success has been total team effort," he said. "We have an administration that wants to work with job creators.

The administration said the state, since January 2011, has seen a job growth rate of 11.4%, or 24th in the nation, while the rate was 4.5% over the previous 20 years, or 48th in the nation.

The administration also said the state's wage growth of 18.9% has outpaced the national rate of 14.7%.

The governor said it's important to diversify the state's economy beyond manufacturing jobs.

"We're still very heavy on manufacturing, particularly advanced manufacturing, but it's always been my goal to diversify us. So whether it's energy, whether it's health care, whether it's financial services or logistics, these jobs are now beginning to grow in our state," he said.

The growth of different businesses is vital to ensuring the state's economic health, Gov. Kasich said.

"If you want to make something, Ohio's a place where we make things, we're all for it," he said. "But we also want to be a knowledge economy. We don't want to be thought of as the Rust Belt. Who wants to be thought of as rusty? We want to be the Knowledge Belt."

Gov. Kasich said he recently met with officials at Google, and hoped the tech company would soon bring jobs to Ohio.

On Amazon's search for a second headquarters, which has drawn interest from most of the country, the governor pointed to the fact that Ohio is already home to one of Amazon's three cloud computing centers and more than 10,000 employees.

The governor said the work trying to recruit Amazon is mostly coming from the cities and regional officials at this point, but he stressed that the state didn't intend to get into a bidding war for the new headquarters.

"We're not just going to give stuff away to corporations," he said. "And if we give them something and they don't deliver, we'll take it back. You don't buy a deal."

JobsOhio President John Minor said the economic development entity has worked to bring about 20,000 new jobs to the state so far this year, and to retain about 100,000.

FirstEnergy CEO Expects Legislative Approval Of ZEN Bills In 1Q 2018

FirstEnergy CEO Chuck Jones told investors Friday that he's anticipating a bill to grant cost recovery to nuclear plants to clear the House Public Utilities Committee by year's end and a final legislative vote early next year.

Committee chairman Rep. Robert Cupp (R-Lima) in response said no decisions have been made on the bill's potential timeline. He added that he was not speaking for leadership.

"Every bill in our committee will have a hearing," Rep. Cupp said. "The timing for HB 381 has not been determined."

Mr. Jones made his remarks during the company's third quarter earnings call. He was specifically referring to a recently introduced legislation (HB 381) from Rep. Anthony DeVitis (R-Green), which is the third bill so far to propose the creation of a zero-emission nuclear credit program to benefit FirstEnergy plants. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 16, 2017)

"The Ohio House Public Utilities Committee is expecting to hold hearings on the bill over the next several weeks with a vote possible by year end," Mr. Jones said. "We expect a final vote in the legislature around the middle of the first quarter."

Rep. DeVitis and Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon) and Sen. Frank LaRose (R-Hudson) introduced the first two ZEN bills in April (HB 178 & SB 128) and they remain in their respective committees with no vote in sight. Mr. Cupp's committee hasn't held a hearing on HB178 since the measure's third hearing in May.

Rep. DeVitis introduced the latest version - HB381 - earlier this month, saying he wanted to enlist cosponsor support, which he had neglected to do on the earlier bill. That bill has been assigned to Rep. Cupp's committee but has received no hearings.

The ZEN bills have stoked controversy, with opponents labeling the plan a bailout and arguing consumers shouldn't be put on the hook for a company's poor decision making.

"FirstEnergy has made a business judgment to spend hundreds of millions, if not billions, of dollars on plants like Davis-Besse and Perry since Ohio deregulated its electric sector, and that spending has made these plants financially unsustainable," according to Madeline Fleisher of the Environmental Law & Policy Center. "They took a risk that the plants could compete in PJM and the risk has not paid off because natural gas plants provide lower cost power. This type of failure takes place in competitive markets every day."

Rep. DeVitis' latest bill is roughly similar to his prior proposal but it does cap residential and nonresidential customers' monthly charges and downsize the program's lifespan from 16 years to 12.

"While revenue resulting from this legislation would be a reduction from the previous version it would likely make the plants economically viable particularly in the restructuring scenario at (FirstEnergy Solutions), we believe this effort is imperative for Ohio's energy security," Mr. Jones said.

The company has argued the bills would help maintain the nuclear resources and adequately compensate them for their contribution to the state's energy portfolio and the environment. Local governments and labor groups from FirstEnergy's footprint have also rallied to push for the bills' passage.

"This bill would create a program to help protect the state's nuclear plants and ensure they continue to support well-paid jobs, economic growth and affordable electricity generation and environmental progress," Mr. Jones said.

Mr. Jones told investors the company's push for the ZEN program will continue despite recent federal moves to examine ways to support nuclear resources. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 23, 2017)

But Mr. Jones has also told lawmakers in the past when testifying in person on the previous bills that even with the ZEN bill, the continued operation of FirstEnergy's nuclear plants isn't assured.

"Whether these state or federal activities result in meaningful and timely support remains to be seen," Mr. Jones said. "But it is encouraging to see the much-needed attention on these very important issues."

Transportation Officials Highlight Social Impacts Of New Technology At OSU Event; Ed Panel Talks Research

The statewide push to adopt new forms of transportation is led by the desire to improve safety, health and quality of life, officials said Friday.

Speaking at the John Glenn Leadership Forum at Ohio State University, Randy Cole, executive director of the Ohio Turnpike Commission, said efforts to install various automated technology along roadways and in vehicles will lead to efficiencies while also saving lives.

"What we're trying to do is a public health matter. It's that big of a deal," he said, pointing to statistics that show 2.4 million injuries in the U.S. last year involved vehicles - more than double the injuries caused by violent crime.

Yet, many surveys of drivers reveal they wouldn't trade driving for autonomous vehicles, Mr. Cole said. He thinks they're surveying the wrong people.

About 100 million Americans are unable to drive safely because of disabilities or advanced age, he said.

"We have a different approach to this silver tsunami that's coming," Mr. Cole said, suggesting that expanded mobility opportunities increase engagement and therefore health in some aging individuals.

William Murdoch, executive director of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, said his agency is also keeping an eye on how Baby Boomers will impact the need for expanded transportation options.

"When they can't afford (driving) or an ailment knocks them out of that, that's when their quality of life knocks down," he said.

Meanwhile, there's another large group Americans that don't drive because they can't afford vehicles or have access to ride-sharing apps that require bank account information.

Brandi Braun, deputy innovation officer for Columbus, said the city is using its Smart City grant funding to better plan for getting individuals to and from work on public transportation

The city will pilot driverless shuttles at Easton Town Center, where a variety of jobs can be reached within one mile of current bus routes, she said.

Surveys of individuals who might use the route overwhelmingly support the plans and say they'd happily ride on driverless shuttles to save them extra walking from the bus stop to a job site, Ms. Braun said. However, the city still plans to do significant outreach for the project.

"We will have a lot of work to do from a Smart Columbus, city and regional standpoint to educate, inform, build trust, have systems and policies in place where we are encouraging the culture shift that will be needed," she said, adding: "We can't just put these projects out on the street and walk away and expect them to be accepted and utilized fully."

While some are currently willing to somehow bridge the gap between the bus and work or home and the bus stop, it's unsafe, Mr. Murdoch said. There have been deaths in central Ohio related to walking in all conditions to get from stops to work or home.

However, there are many who won't make the effort to get on buses because they take significantly longer than driving in a car.

"If you're trying to get to one of our job centers, you...have to take a bus an hour and then the job areas require you to walk or go that last mile," he said. "How do you make that easier or people, how do you open those jobs to people who don't have access to them."

Mr. Cole said the answer could be driverless vehicles or other emerging technology supported by the state.

"There is a shared mobility that goes with this that lowers the barrier to mobility," he said.

Getting buy-in from residents as well as those who are working in government is key to ensuring efforts move forward, Mr. Cole said. At the turnpike, he said he focuses on explaining what technology can do for the state rather than how it works.

He also aims to ensure state workers that their jobs won't be replaced even though they'll be different and better informed by data from new technology.

"People are still going to be a big part of all these projects," he said.

When it comes to autonomous vehicles or the Hyperloop One project that could create a high-speed connection between Columbus, Chicago and Pittsburgh, Mr. Murdoch said those working in central Ohio transportation are encouraged by seeing the technology up close.

Staff has traveled to San Francisco to ride in the driverless Google car and MORPC employees have seen Hyperloop prototypes, he said.

The goal is to ensure those experiences not only fascinate state transportation leaders, but also get them thinking about how they can serve Ohioans and others in the nation, Mr. Murdoch said.

"Technology is changing so quickly, we've got to keep our eye on the benefits" he said.

Ms. Braun echoed those sentiments.

"The lead shouldn't be on the tech side or the framework behind it, it's more about the impacts you're having on the community," she said.

Education Panel: Education stakeholders also came together at the OSU event to discuss how research can inform policy and program decisions.

Superintendent of Public Instruction Paolo DeMaria said there is no required order those three must be done, nothing that in many cases implementation of a program begins first and is then followed by research that could result in policy decision.

The goal of his agency is finding where good work is being done and promoting it, he said, because sometimes schools don't realize what they're doing could be translated into programs in other schools around the state.

"We don't tell the stories of success in Ohio effectively at all," Mr. DeMaria said, adding that ODE is building an evidence-based clearinghouse for schools to research best practices and programs in other schools throughout Ohio.

The state also needs to be looking more into areas where the data shows schools aren't doing so well, he said.

"We have to be making sure we're focusing on those places of underperformance that we find we just have to get a better handle on," Mr. DeMaria said.

Groundwork Ohio Executive Director Shannon Jones, said advocacy organizations like hers must get lawmakers to more often prioritize issues based on clear evidence.

Early childhood education has been studied for nearly four decades and it's still not to capacity in the state despite research showing its effectiveness in preparing children across all socio-economic backgrounds to succeed in school.

"Having been a policy maker, I can tell you that very little policy is actually based on evidence," the former lawmaker said.

As an administrator for Marietta City Schools, Tasha Werry said she uses research to implement state mandates as well as to show the effectiveness of programs created in her district.

High Court Seeks Input On Grand Jury Records Change; DOJ Settles With Tea Party Groups; ACLU Releases Bail Report...

Absent any legislative action taken on the issue, the Ohio Supreme Court is asking for public comment on a grand jury records recommendation made by one of its task forces.

The court will accept public comment until Nov. 22 on an amendment to Criminal Rule 6 that would allow for the limited release of records from grand jury proceedings in cases in which there is no indictment and it is proven that transparency outweighs secrecy in the case, the court reported.

A court would then be able to hold a hearing on the matter after the requestor and the prosecuting attorney is notified.

The court could then order the release of the record if certain conditions are met, including widespread knowledge by the general public of the criminal investigation and the identity of the person being investigated.

That was one of several recommendations made by the Task Force to Examine Improvements to the Ohio Grand Jury System. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 13, 2016)

However, those recommendations have garnered little traction in the General Assembly. Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) said he would be open to more transparency in the grand jury process, but suggested that it could be done through a rule change rather than law. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, September 27, 2017)

Other proposed amendments for which the court is seeking public comment would also allow for attorneys to more easily remove themselves from cases after agreeing to serve as counsel only for a specific portion of a case.

The proposed amendments must be filed with the General Assembly by Jan. 15 to take effect on July 1. Despite seeking public comment, the high court may not file any or all of the proposed amendments with the legislature.

Public comments should be submitted in writing to Jess Mosser, policy counsel Ohio Supreme Court, 65 S. Front St., Seventh Floor Columbus, OH 43215 or Jesse.Mosser@sc.ohio.gov.

Lawsuit Settlement: The Department of Justice announced that it has settled two lawsuits alleging tea party groups were improperly targeted by the IRS.

In announcing the settlements, which still require court approval, Attorney General Jeff Sessions blamed the administration of former President Barack Obama for "using inappropriate criteria to screen applications for 501(c) status."

"These criteria included names such as 'Tea Party,' 'Patriots,' or '9/12' or policy positions concerning government spending or taxes, education of the public to 'make America a better place to live,' or statements criticizing how the country was being run. It is also clear these criteria disproportionately impacted conservative groups," he said.

The Portage County TEA Party was a party in one of the lawsuits. Executive Director Tom Zawistowski called the lawsuit "a long and hard fight for justice."

"We accomplished our goals of exposing the tyranny of our government under the Obama administration, doing something to stop it, and making sure it doesn't happen again.... Not many people can take on any government agency, let alone the IRS, and win," he said.

Bail Report: Nearly 30% of defendants in Cuyahoga County who received low-level bonds spent their entire pre-trial period in jail because they did not have \$500 or less to secure their release, a report released by the ACLU of Ohio found.

Among other findings in the report, "Enhancing Pretrial Justice In Cuyahoga County: Results From a Jail Population Analysis and Judicial Feedback," was that 25% of the felony pre-trial population in the Cuyahoga County Jail remained detained throughout the pre-trial period, with an average stay of 104 days.

The report also found that 38% of the Cuyahoga County Jail population released on personal bond spent more than one week in pre-trial detention.

"The report on Cuyahoga County bail practices confirms on a local level what we've already seen coming out of statewide and federal data -- which is that many people stay in jail simply because they cannot pay a few hundred dollars to get out," said Mike Brickner, senior policy director of the ACLU of Ohio.

"Numerous studies show that as little as 72 hours in jail pretrial can cause a person's life to unravel, by losing their jobs, housing, or custody of children, among many other issues. The moment is now for implementation of reform that brings about actual and sustainable change."

Hurricane Help: The American Bar Association is offering free Continuing Legal Education webinars to aid attorneys that wish to help with recovery efforts from hurricanes Harvey, Irma or Maria, the high court announced.

"Ohio lawyers stepped up when Hurricane Harvey hit. Victims of the next two giant storms need legal help, too. All will be navigating difficult legal situations, from unemployment benefits and insurance payouts to lost records and applications for federal assistance," Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor said.

"Attorneys who join in this ABA effort are helping to ensure that access to fair and effective justice is available to all Americans, not just those who can afford the services of an attorney."

Liability Insurance: The Ohio Bar Liability Insurance Company has again been recognized as one of the fastest growing property and casualty liability insurance companies in Ohio by *Columbus Business First*.

It marks the fourth consecutive year the OBLIC has received the recognition.

"We are honored to be ranked in *Columbus Business First* as among the fastest growing property and casualty insurance companies in Ohio," said Steve Couch, president and CEO of the OBLIC. "We are ahead of that pace for 2017, at approximately 8% growth through September. OBLIC is the only insurance carrier exclusively devoted to protecting Ohio attorneys, and we are pleased to have earned the trust and loyalty of lawyers and law firms all over Ohio."

Stivers Threat: A Westerville man has pleaded guilty in federal court to one count of threatening to murder and assault U.S. Rep. Steve Stivers (R-Columbus), the Department of Justice announced.

E. Stanley Hoff, 68, of Westerville faces up to 10 years in prison after he left threatening voicemails on Mr. Stivers' Hilliard office phone.

Cocaine Bust: The DOJ also announced a Canadian man has been sentenced in federal court to 96 months in prison after a plane he was flying was found to be carrying 290 pounds of cocaine.

Sylvain Desjardins, 48, of Maribel, Canada was piloting the plane that landed at Gordon K. Bush Airport at Ohio University on March 29. He pleaded guilty to one count of possession with intent to distribute more than five kilograms of cocaine.

His passenger, David Ayotte, 46, also of Maribel, Canada, pleaded guilty to the same charge and was sentenced to 63 months in prison.

Bar Exam: The high court announced Thursday that of the 936 applicants who sat for the bar exam in July, 664 received passing scores.

Disciplinary Cases: The Board of Professional conduct on Friday released its November schedule of cases for hearings.

Agency Briefs: BWC Board Gets Analysis Of House Bill; State Sends Guard Help To Puerto Rico; SOS; Labor Force; IG; Lottery; AG; PUCO; ODNr; Statehouse

An actuarial analysis presented to the Bureau of Workers' Compensation's Board of Directors Thursday showed a legislative proposal to change workers' comp benefits would likely reduce annual costs by \$4.8 million.

The analysis of the legislation (HB 269) estimated the new limits on permanent total disability payments and the creation of extended benefits compensation would reduce costs by \$8.7 million.

Increased survivor benefits would raise annual payments by about \$3.9 million, the analysis said.

The board also approved new rules to bring the certification of providers in line with changes made in the budget (HB 49) to licensing boards. Administrator/CEO Sarah Morrison also told the board the bureau will add a supervisor and 10 customer service representatives to its office at Shawnee State University in Portsmouth, with the new call center designed to supplement the bureau's existing center in Pickerington.

Adjutant General: An Ohio National Guard transportation company was slated to leave Friday to provide logistical support in the efforts to help Puerto Rico recover from Hurricane Maria.

About half of the 86 Soldiers from the 1483rd Transportation Company, based out of Walbridge, were set to depart from Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base to assist in transporting food, water, equipment and fuel in support of the relief efforts, the Adjutant General's Office reported. The other half of the company is scheduled to depart Sunday.

Gov. John Kasich noted the deployment in a statement posted to his Twitter account.

"Puerto Rico still has a long way to go in their recovery, and I'm glad Ohio is always ready to help," he wrote. "Good luck to our National Guard members assisting the effort and stay safe down there!"

Since Hurricane Harvey in late August, more than 200 Ohio National Guard Soldiers and Airmen have supported hurricane relief efforts in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Secretary of State: Through Oct. 20, more than 250,000 absentee ballots had been requested for the Nov. 7 election and 69,223 votes have been cast, according to the secretary of state's office.

A total of 26,275 voters have cast absentee ballots in person.

Military and overseas voters have requested 1,004 ballots, and 193 of those have been cast.

Labor Force: Unemployment rates fell in 85 counties and rose in three counties in September as the state's unemployment rate dropped to 5.3%, according to the Department of Job and Family Services. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 20, 2017)

Mercer County had the lowest unemployment rate at 2.8%, with Putnam, Delaware, Hancock, Holmes, Auglaize, Union, Wyandot and Madison also coming in at or below 3.5%, according to the state.

The highest unemployment rate in the state was in Trumbull County, at 7.9%. Mahoning, Monroe and Meigs also came in at or above 6.9%.

Inspector General: Randall Meyer reported that an investigation found a Department of Rehabilitation and Correction parole officer used his position to assist in the release of an offender not under his supervision.

The investigation determined Parole Officer Andrew Bernier made calls and visits to an inmate in the Montgomery County Jail while he was on disability leave, contacted an alcohol and drug treatment center to secure a bed for an inmate, and convinced a judge to order the inmate's release.

The IG report recommended the department determine if he violated the terms of his disability leave benefits and consider appropriate remedies. The report was forwarded to the Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office.

Ohio Lottery: The Lottery announced the Mega Millions game will be redesigned starting Saturday, with larger jackpots and faster rolls.

Starting jackpots will increase from \$15 million to \$40 million, and will grow faster, the lottery said. There are also better odds to win \$1 million prizes and higher secondary prizes, and ticket prices will increase from \$1 to \$2.

"We're excited to bring this change and the opportunity to create more millionaires with the Mega Millions game. Our players demand entertaining games that deliver attention-grabbing jackpots, and this change will do that," Director Dennis Berg said in a statement.

Attorney General: Mike DeWine announced a partnership with the NRA to bring training programs for school staff, school resource officers and law enforcement. The first training was held Oct. 24 and 25 in Wellston.

The National School Shield's Security Assessor Training focuses on security assessment methods and improving building security.

"I'm proud to partner with the NRA to bring their National School Shield training to Ohio," said Attorney General DeWine. "Keeping our children safe at school is a top priority at every school, and the expertise and resources that they provided through this program will help further this important work."

On Friday, Mr. DeWine and 45 other attorneys general announced a \$220 million settlement with Deutsche Bank over "fraudulent and anticompetitive conduct involving the manipulation of the London interbank offered rate, or Libor, a benchmark interest rate that has a widespread impact on global markets and consumers."

Under the agreement, about \$213 million will be used to reimburse government and nonprofit groups that had Libor-linked swaps and other investment contracts with Deutsche and that were harmed by the activity, the Ag reported. Several Ohio entities, including pension funds, hospital systems, and universities are expected to qualify.

Public Utilities: The Ohio Power Siting Board postponed a hearing scheduled for a wind farm on Lake Erie.

The adjudicatory hearing for Icebreaker Windpower Inc.'s proposal will be rescheduled a later date.

A public hearing is set for Nov. 8 at 6 p.m. at Cleveland City Council Chambers, and a second public hearing will be scheduled later.

The adjudicatory hearing was originally set for Nov. 17.

The change comes after staff requested more time to get information from the company.

Natural Resources: The Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management reported a total of 2,657 permits have been issued for drilling in the Utica shale as of Oct. 21, with 2,150 wells drilled and 1,716 in production.

The department also presented its Cardinal Award to Ducks Unlimited, whose conservation programs have restored more than 87,000 acres of wetlands and habitat, investing almost \$30 million.

"We are fortunate to have partners like Ducks Unlimited to assist us in our pursuit and promotion of conservation projects across Ohio," ODNR Director Jim Zehringer said in a statement. "They have been instrumental in helping us further ODNR's mission to protect Ohio's natural resources now and for future generations."

Ohio Statehouse: The Statehouse Museum Shop will host a book signing and food tasting Nov. 15 called "Taste of Ohio" in the Map Room. The event will run from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The food tasting will include products from Giorgio Cookie Co., Bellisari's, Nature's Honey Tree, Silver Bridge Coffee Co. and De Massimo's Authentic Sauces.

The book signings will include "Ohio in Photographs: A Portrait of the Buckeye State," by Ian Adams and Randall Lee Schieber; "Mr. Chairman: The Life and Times of Ray C. Bliss," by William Hershey and John Green; and "True Tales from the Campaign Trail; Stories Only Political Consultants Can Tell," by Jerry Austin.

Ohio Business: AEP, FirstEnergy, Goodyear, Dana, Owens Corning, Timken, Others Report Earnings

FirstEnergy Corp. reported third quarter earnings of \$396 million or \$0.89 per basic and diluted share of common stock, on revenue of \$3.7 billion.

That compares to \$380 million in earnings on revenue of \$3.9 billion during the same quarter in 2016, the Akron-based utility said in its earnings report.

"During the quarter, we achieved solid results from each of our businesses, and made continued progress on our regulated growth strategies," Charles E. Jones, FirstEnergy president and chief executive officer, said in a statement. "We remain focused on meeting our commitments to the investment community, and we are pleased to raise our full-year 2017 operating earnings guidance above our previous range."

Goodyear: The Akron-based tire giant reported third quarter sales of \$3.9 billion, up from \$3.8 billion a year ago, "with the increase largely attributable to improved price/mix, which drove revenue per tire up 5 percent over the 2016 quarter, excluding the impact of foreign currency translation."

Net income for the quarter was \$129 million (50 cents per share), down from \$317 million (\$1.19 per share) in the same quarter last year, the company said. Third quarter 2017 adjusted net income was \$177 million (70 cents per share), down from \$310 million (\$1.17 per share) in 2016.

Dana Incorporated: The company's third-quarter sales came in at \$1.83 billion - 32% higher than in the same quarter last year, the Maumee company reported on Thursday.

"The quarterly increase was driven in part by recent acquisitions that contributed \$133 million," according to a company release. "Currency provided a tailwind to sales of \$28 million."

Net income for the third quarter was \$69 million, compared with \$57 million in 2016. Diluted earnings per share were \$0.46 in the third quarter of 2017, compared with \$0.39 in the same period last year.

The results prompted Dana to raise its full-year guidance. Estimates now show annual sales as high as \$7.2 billion and earnings of up to \$850 million, or \$2.50 diluted adjusted earnings per share.

Owens Corning: The company saw record net sales in the third quarter, coming in at \$1.7 billion.

That total is up 12% over the same period last year, the company said. It attributed the jump, in part, to roofing segment net sales, which increased 13%.

The Toledo company also reported net earnings of \$96 million, or \$0.85 per diluted share, compared with \$112 million, or \$0.97 per diluted share. Adjusted earnings were \$141 million, or \$1.25 per diluted share, compared with \$125 million, or \$1.08 per diluted share last year.

"Owens Corning delivered another strong quarter, despite some isolated market challenges. We remain confident in our ability to finish the year with strong financial performance," Chairman and CEO Mike Thaman said in a statement.

Timken: The North Canton company on Wednesday raised its full-year outlook after posting a 17% increase in sales for the third-quarter.

Sales were \$771 million, generating net income of \$53.5 million, or earnings per diluted share of \$0.68, on a GAAP basis, Timken reported.

"The results reflect higher demand across most end-market sectors led by industrial distribution and off-highway, as well as the benefit of acquisitions and currency," said the company, which produces engineered bearings and mechanical power transmission products.

PolyOne: Revenue increased 10% to \$818 million in the third quarter, the company announced Wednesday. Adjusted earnings per share also increased to \$0.58 from \$0.55 in the prior year.

The results follow the Cleveland company's recent announcement of a 30% expansion of its quarterly dividend and plans to raise the company's annual dividend 60% cumulatively over the next three years.

Huntington: The company saw a 116% increase in year-over-year net income in the third quarter. It reported net income of \$148 million, marking the second consecutive quarter of gains.

Earnings per common share were also up 109% to \$0.23, Huntington said. Excluding about \$31 million pretax of FirstMerit acquisition-related net expenses, adjusted earnings per common share were \$0.25.

"The 2017 third quarter marked the one-year anniversary of the largest acquisition in Huntington's history, and we have substantially completed the integration. We fully implemented \$255 million of annualized cost savings, and continue to execute on the deal-related revenue synergies," said Steve Steinour, chairman, president, and CEO. "Consistent execution of our core organic growth strategies, coupled with the realization of these acquisition economics, are the key drivers of third quarter results."

Vantiv: Total third-quarter revenue increased 13% to more than \$1 billion in comparison to the previous year, the company reported. Net revenue also increased 13% to \$554.2 million.

Net income per diluted share attributable to Vantiv increased 39% to \$0.57 as compared to \$0.41 in the prior year period.

AEP: The company's leader said it's narrowing operating earnings guidance in response to milder weather as of late.

"In the last 35 years, only 1992 had milder temperatures than what we've experienced in the first nine months of 2017," said Nicholas K. Akins, AEP chairman, president and chief executive officer.

"The weather negatively impacted earnings by 16 cents per share year-to-date versus our expectations, but we've taken proactive steps to reduce anticipated expenses and offset the majority of this impact. We are maintaining our previously stated 2018 operating earnings guidance range of \$3.75-\$3.95 per share and our forecasted growth rate of 5-7%."

Third-quarter earnings were \$545 million, or \$1.11 per share, compared with a GAAP loss of \$766 million or \$1.56 per share in the same quarter of 2016, the utilities company announced Thursday.

Operating earnings, meanwhile, were \$543 million or \$1.10 per share, compared with operating earnings of \$640 million or \$1.30 per share last year.

Lancaster Colony: Consolidated net sales increased 2.6% to a first-quarter record \$298.9 million, the company reported.

The gain comes as retail net sales grew 6.2% to \$162.1 million, it said. Organic sales increase 4% and the sales from Angelic Bakehouse, which the company acquired in November 2016, added 2.2%.

In the quarter, net income was \$29.4 million, or \$1.07 per diluted share, compared to \$33.4 million, or \$1.22 per diluted share, last year.

M/I Homes: The Columbus homebuilder reported third-quarter net income of \$22.3 million, or \$0.64 per diluted share; which is an increase from \$10.9 million in the same period last year.

For the first nine months of the year, the company said it took in net income of \$56.2 million, or \$1.73 per diluted share, compared to net income of \$36.0 million, or \$1.17 per diluted share, for 2016.

Cincinnati Financial: The company reported Third-quarter 2017 net income of \$102 million, or 61 cents per share, compared with \$180 million, or \$1.08 per share, in the third quarter of 2016.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Monday, October 30

Tax Credit Authority, Rm. South A, 31st Fl., 77 S. High St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

Thursday, November 2

Broadcast Educational Media Commission, 2470 North Star Rd., Columbus, 10 a.m.

Supplemental Event Planner


Monday, October 30

Gov. John Kasich to address Kasich to address leaders of Keidanren, an economic organization with membership of more than 1,300 Japanese companies, Statehouse Atrium, Columbus, 12 p.m.

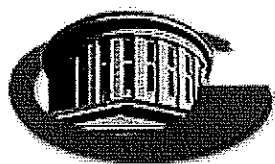
17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | **Fax:** 614-221-7844 | **Email:** gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed,
Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

© 2017, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.



GONGWER Ohio
The Record of Capitol Square Since 1906

Event Planner

Sunday, October 29

Ohio Democratic Party state dinner, Greater Columbus Convention Center, 400 N. High St., Columbus, 4:30 p.m., (Featured speaker: Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe)

Democratic gubernatorial debate, Greater Columbus Convention Center, 400 N. High St., Columbus, 6 p.m.

Monday, October 30

Gov. John Kasich to address leaders of Keidanren, an economic organization with membership of more than 1,300 Japanese companies, Statehouse Atrium, Columbus, 12 p.m.

JobsOhio media availability on Ohio & Japan trade relationship, State Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 2:30 p.m.

Sen. Frank Hoagland (R-Adena) fundraiser, The Galley, 203 2nd St., Marietta, 5:30 p.m., (Special Guest Congressman Bill Johnson. \$1,000 Chair | \$500 Host | \$250 Sponsor | \$150 per Couple | \$100 per Individual to Hoagland for Ohio)

Tuesday, October 31

Rep. John Rogers (D-Mentor on the Lake) & Rep. John Patterson (D-Jefferson) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E Livingston Ave, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Friends of Rogers and Committee to Elect John Patterson)

Wednesday, November 1

Rep. Emilia Sykes (D-Akron) & Sen. Vernon Sykes (D-Akron) fundraiser, Einstein's Bros. Bagels, 41 S. High St., Columbus, 8 a.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Emilia Sykes Campaign and Sykes for Office)

Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) and Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens to Elect Craig Riedel and/or Kristina Daley Roegner for Ohio)

Rep. Dave Greenspan (R-Westlake) fundraiser, Oliver's, 26 N. High Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Friends of Dave Greenspan)

Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) and Rep. Bill Blessing (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Parlor A/B, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$2,000; Sponsor: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Individual: \$350 to Seitz for Ohio and/or Citizens for Blessing)

Rep. Bernadine Kent (D-Columbus) fundraiser, Lincoln Cafe, 740 E. Long St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Kent for Ohio)

Thursday, November 2

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) and Rep. Jeff Rezabek (R-Clayton) fundraiser 110217, Olde Schoolhouse Winery, 152 Ohio 726, Eaton, 5:30 p.m., (\$500 Event Host | \$250 Event Sponsor | \$80 per Couple | \$50 per Person to Citizens for Bill Beagle and/or Citizens for Rezabek)

Rep. Steve Hambley (R-Medina) fundraiser, High & Low Winery, 588 Medina Road, Wadsworth, 6 p.m., (Special Guest President Larry Obhof. Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Hambley for House Committee)

Friday, November 3

Division of State Fire Marshal public hearing, 8895 E. Main Street, Reynoldsburg, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, November 8

Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) and Rep. Laura Lanese (R-Grove City) fundraiser, OHROC, 21 W. Broad Street, Floor 7, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 Citizens for Duffey and/or Lanese for Ohio)

Tuesday, November 14

Rep. Tom Brinkman (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Olivers, 26 N. High St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500; Patron: \$350 to Brinkman Campaign Committee)

Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) fundraiser, Hey Hey, 361 East Whittier Street, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (\$1000 Rockstar - includes table of 6 | \$500 Opening Act | \$350 Groupie to Matt Huffman for Ohio. 5:30pm Reception | 6:00pm Klatt Brothers Band | 8:00pm After Party with Surprise Guest)

Rep. Catherine Ingram (D-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E Livingston Ave., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Ingram for the People)

Wednesday, November 15

Rep. Janine Boyd (D-Cleveland Hts.) and Rep. Stephanie Howse (D-Cleveland) fundraiser, Einstein Bros. Bagels, 41 S. High Street, Columbus, 8 a.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Friends of Janine Boyd and Friends of Stephanie Howse)

Rep. Mark Romanchuk (R-Mansfield) fundraiser, Athletic Club, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Special Guest Rep. Ryan Smith. Sponsor: \$1,000; Host: \$500 to Romanchuk for State Rep)

Rep. Tavia Galonski (D-Akron) fundriaser, Westies Gastropub, 940 S. Front Street, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Friends of Tavia Galonski)

Thursday, November 16

Sen. Scott Oelslager (R-N. Canton) fundraiser, Shady Hollow Country Club, 4865 Wales Avenue NW, Massillon, 5:30 p.m., (\$1,000 Chair | \$500 Host | \$250 Sponsor | \$50 per Individual to Oelslager for Ohio Committee. Special guests: Sens. Obhof, Peterson, Gardner and Manning)

Tuesday, November 28

Rep. Brigid Kelly (D-Cincinnati) and Rep. Kent Smith (D-Euclid) fundraiser, Olivers, 26 N. High Street, Columbus, 8 a.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Friends of Brigid Kelly and Kent Smith Committee)

Rep. Scott Ryan (R-Newark) fundraiser, Pub Mahone, 31 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens for Scott Ryan)

Wednesday, November 29

Rep. Michele Lepore-Hagan (D-Youngstown) fundraiser, Einstein Bros. Bagels, 41 S High Street, Columbus, 8 a.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Michele Lepore-Hagan for State Representative)

Rep. Scott Lipps (R-Franklin) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Special Guest Rep. Ryan Smith. Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Friends of Scott Lipps)

Ohio House Republican Organizing Committee fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Gold Room, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500 to OHROC)

Rep. Jim Butler (R-Oakwood) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Parlor A/B, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Butler for Ohio)

Thursday, November 30

Rep. Derek Merrin (R-Monclova Township) fundraiser, OHROC, 21 W. Broad Street, Floor 7, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Friends of Derek Merrin)

Rep. Jonathan Dever (R-Madeira) fundraiser, Seth and Susanna Schwartz residence, 9075 Old Indian Hill Road, Cincinnati, 6 p.m., (Chair: \$10,000; Sponsor: \$5,000; Host Committee: \$2,500; Patron: \$1,000 to Friends for Jonathan Dever)

Tuesday, December 5

Rep. Gary Scherer (R-Circleville) fundraiser, Ringside, 19 N. Pearl Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Special Guest Rep. Ryan Smith. Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Friends of Gary Scherer)

Ohio House Democratic Caucus fundraiser, location to be announced, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 6

Rep. Tim Schaffer (R-Lancaster) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000; Host: \$500 to Tim Schaffer for State Representative)

Rep. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Parlor A/B, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500 to Citizens for Schuring Committee)

Wednesday, February 28

Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Legislative Luncheon, Renaissance Hotel, 50 N. 3rd St., Columbus, 12 p.m.

Monday, June 4

Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Golf Outing, The Lakes, 6740 Worthington Rd., Westerville

Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Golf Outing, The Lakes, 6740 Worthington Rd., Westerville

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | **Fax:** 614-221-7844 | **Email:** gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed,
Staff Writers

© 2017, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.



GONGWER Ohio

The Record of Capitol Square Since 1906

Legislative Committee Schedules beginning 10/30/2017

Tuesday, October 31

House Ways & Means (*Committee Record*) (Chr. Schaffer, T., 466-8100), Rm. 121, 9 a.m.

HB COLLEGE TEXTBOOKS (Duffey, M.) To exempt from sales and use tax textbooks purchased by post-337 secondary students. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB MILITARY TAX EXEMPTION (Perales, R., Butler, J.) To require municipal corporations to exempt from 351 taxation the military pay of members of the commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Public Health Service. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB PROPERTY VALUES (Merrin, D.) To require local governments that contest property values to formally 343 pass an authorizing resolution for each contest and to notify property owners. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB PROPERTY TAX (Merrin, D.) To exempt from property taxation the increased value of land subdivided for 371 residential development until construction commences or the land is sold. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

House Financial Institutions, Housing & Urban Development (*Committee Record*) (Chr. Dever, J., 466-8120), Rm. 114, 10 a.m.

SB COUNTY INVESTMENTS (Wilson, S.) To modify the qualifications regarding notes eligible for 163 investment of county inactive moneys. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB PYRAMID SCHEMES (Pelanda, D.) To modify the law governing pyramid promotional schemes. (3rd 329 Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)

HB UNCLAIMED FUNDS (Reineke, B.) To exempt certain open-loop prepaid cards, closed-loop prepaid 353 cards, and rewards cards from the Unclaimed Funds Law. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

House Insurance (*Committee Record*) (Chr. Brinkman, T., 644-6886), Rm. 116, 10 a.m.

HB VISION CARE INSURANCE (Schuring, K.) Regarding limitations imposed by health insurers on vision 156 care services. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

HB AUTO INSURANCE (Antani, N.) To create a study committee to author a report making recommendations 284 about ways to reduce the cost of insurance premiums among commercial drivers ages eighteen to twenty-five. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

House Rules & Reference (*Committee Record*) (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3506), Rm. 119, 11 a.m.

House Economic Development, Commerce & Labor (*Committee Record*) (Chr. Young, R., 644-6074), Rm. 113, 1:30 p.m.

HB OUTDOOR DINING AREAS (Lanese, L.) To generally allow an owner, keeper, or harbinger of a dog to 263 take the dog in an outdoor dining area of a retail food establishment or food service operation. (4th Hearing-Interested Party)

HB HOME INSPECTORS (Hughes, J.) To require the licensure of home inspectors and to create the Ohio 211 Home Inspector Board to regulate the licensure and performance of home inspectors. (4th Hearing-All

■ testimony-Possible substitute)

House Education & Career Readiness (Committee Record) (Chr. Brenner, A., 644-6711), Rm. 121, 3 p.m.

HB SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS (Ginter, T.) Regarding medical examinations for school bus drivers. (2nd 338 Hearing-Proponent)

HB SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS (Patterson, J., LaTourette, S.) To define the necessary qualifications 318 and responsibilities of school resource officers. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB BULLYING (Greenspan, D.) To enact the "Ohio Anti-Bullying and Hazing Act" with regard to school 360 discipline and bullying and hazing policies at public schools and public colleges. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

House Public Utilities (Committee Record) (Chr. Cupp, R., 466-9624), Rm. 116, 3 p.m.

- Presentation from PUCO Chairman Asim Haque on Ohio's electric regulatory framework

Wednesday, November 1

House Transportation & Public Safety (Committee Record) (Chr. Green, D., 644-6034), Rm. 017, 9 a.m.

- Autonomous and Connected Vehicles Hearing
- Manufacturers Briefing: To educate the committee on the basics of AV/CV technology and predicted timeline of implementation. Witnesses: Harry Lightsey, Executive Director of Emerging Technologies - General Motors; Al Prescott, Associate General Counsel & Directory of Regulatory Affairs - Tesla; Douglas Longhitano, Manager, Connected & Automated Vehicle Policy - American Honda Motor Co., Inc.

House Health (Committee Record) (Chr. Huffman, S., 466-8114), Rm. 121, 9 a.m.

HB PHYSICAL THERAPY (Gavarone, T., Reineke, B.) To modify the laws governing the practice of 131 physical therapy. (4th Hearing-Possible substitute)

HB DIABETES REGISTRY (Barnes, J.) To establish the Ohio Diabetes Registry. (2nd Hearing-Proponent) 241

HB ANATOMICAL GIFTS (Antani, N.) Regarding anatomical gifts, transplantation, and discrimination on 332 the basis of disability. (3rd Hearing-Opponent & interested party)

HB AWARENESS MONTH (Lepore-Hagan, M., Howse, S.) To designate April as "Sarcoidosis Awareness 335 Month." (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

House Government Accountability & Oversight (Committee Record) (Chr. Blessing, L., 466-9091), Rm. 114, 9:30 a.m.

HJR UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (Schuring, K.) Proposing to enact Section 2t of Article VIII of 4 the Constitution of the State of Ohio to allow the General Assembly to provide by law for the issuance of bonds to pay unemployment compensation benefits when the fund created for that purpose is or will be depleted or to repay outstanding advances made by the federal government to the unemployment compensation program. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

HB UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (Schuring, K.) To modify terms describing payments made 382 under the Unemployment Compensation Law, to increase the amount of wages subject to unemployment compensation premiums, to require qualifying employees to make payments to the Unemployment Compensation Insurance Fund, to allow the Director of Job and Family Services to adjust maximum weekly benefit amounts, to reduce the maximum number of benefit weeks, and to make other changes to the Unemployment Compensation Law. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

HB POLITICAL SUBDIVISION SPENDING (Schuring, K., Greenspan, D.) Regarding use of credit cards 312 and debit cards by political subdivisions. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

HB COMMUNITY SCHOOLS (Roegner, K.) Regarding public moneys returned to the state as a result of a finding for recovery issued pursuant to an audit of a community school. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

HB TAX COMPLAINTS (Greenspan, D.) To increase the time within which boards of revision must decide property tax complaints. (2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible amendments)

HCRANTI-SEMITISM (Thompson, A., Greenspan, D.) To condemn the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement and increasing incidents of anti-Semitism. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB PUBLIC RECORDS (Huffman, S., Cera, J.) To include judges as individuals whose residential and familial information is exempt from disclosure under the Public Records Law, and whose addresses public offices, upon request, must redact from records available to the general public on the internet. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB TAX LEVIES (Merrin, D.) To permit local tax-related proposals to appear only on general and primary election ballots and not on an August special election ballot and to modify the information conveyed in election notices and ballot language for property tax levies. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Senate Government Oversight & Reform (Committee Record) (Chr. Coley, B., 466-8072), Finance Hearing Rm., 9:45 a.m.

SB PRISON TERMS (Bacon, K., O'Brien, S.) To provide for indefinite prison terms for first or second degree felonies and specified third degree felonies, with presumptive release of offenders sentenced to such a term at the end of the minimum term; to generally allow the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction to reduce the minimum term for exceptional conduct or adjustment to incarceration; to allow the Department to rebut the release presumption and keep the offender in prison up to the maximum term if it makes specified findings; and to name the act's provisions the Reagan Tokes Law. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

SB OFFENDER RE-ENTRY (Bacon, K., O'Brien, S.) To require the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction to establish a reentry program for all offenders released from prison who it intends to have reside in a halfway house or similar facility but who are not accepted by any such facility; to require the Adult Parole Authority to establish maximum work-load and case-load standards for its parole and field officers and have enough trained officers to comply with the standards; to require that GPS monitoring used for offenders released from prison under such monitoring specify restrictions, including inclusionary zones and necessary exclusionary zones; to require the Department to establish system requirements for GPS monitoring of such offenders by the Department or third-party contract administrators; to require the Department to operate a statewide database for law enforcement use containing specified information about such offenders; to require that third-party administrators for GPS monitoring under a new contract with the Department provide and use a law enforcement-accessible crime scene correlation program; and to name the act's provisions the Reagan Tokes Law. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

SB AGENCY RULEMAKING (Uecker, J.) To amend, for the purpose of adopting a new section number as indicated in parentheses, section 127.18 (106.024); to enact sections 101.352, 101.353, 106.032, 121.93, 121.931, 121.932, and 121.933; and to repeal section 121.76 of the Revised Code to reform agency rule-making and legislative review thereof. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

House State & Local Government (Committee Record) (Chr. Anielski, M., 644-6041), Rm. 122, 10 a.m.

HB GOVERNMENT INSURANCE (Wiggam, S.) To authorize counties, townships, and municipal corporations to purchase an employee dishonesty and faithful performance of duty insurance policy, instead of a bond, for protection from loss due to the fraudulent or dishonest actions of, and the failure to perform a duty prescribed by law by, an officer, official, employee, or appointee for which a bond is required by law. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)

SB DAY DESIGNATION (Hackett, B.) To designate the twenty-fifth day of May as "Ohio National Missing Children's Day." (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB PIPE MATERIALS (Edwards, J.) To require a public authority to consider all piping materials that meet the engineering specifications for a state-funded water or waste water project. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)

HB GARBAGE FEES (Patterson, J.) To authorize all municipal corporations that charge a garbage collection

323 fee to certify unpaid amounts to the county auditor, who must enter the fees on the property tax list to be collected in the same manner as real property taxes. (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

HBVOTER REGISTRATION (Clyde, K.) To designate the fourth Tuesday of September as "Ohio Voter Registration Day." (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

SB AGENCY CONTRACTS (Manning, G.) To allow a board of alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services to authorize its executive director to execute contracts valued at \$50,000 or less without the board's prior approval. (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

SB DISABILITIES COUNCIL (Burke, D.) To abolish the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Commission, Consumer Advisory Committee, and Governor's Council on People with Disabilities and to establish a state rehabilitation services council known as the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Council. (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

House Insurance (Committee Record) (Chr. Brinkman, T., 644-6886), Rm. 116, 10 a.m.

HB WORKERS COMPENSATION (Seitz, B., Householder, L.) To prohibit illegal and unauthorized aliens from receiving compensation and certain benefits under Ohio's Workers' Compensation Law. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB LICENSE FEES (Barnes, J., Greenspan, D.) To prohibit the imposition of driver's license and temporary instruction permit reinstatement fees in specified circumstances and to name this act the Reinstatement Fee Amnesty Initiative. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB WORKERS COMPENSATION (Henne, M.) To make changes to the Workers' Compensation Law with respect to self-insuring employers. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

House Higher Education & Workforce Development (Committee Record) (Chr. Duffey, M., 644-6030), Rm. 115, 11 a.m.

HB TENURED FACULTY (Young, R.) To require permanently tenured state university or college faculty members to teach at least three credit hours of undergraduate courses per semester. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute & vote)

House Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357), House Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

House Federalism & Interstate Relations (Committee Record) (Chr. Roegner, K., 466-1177), Rm. 115, 1:31 p.m. or after session

HR CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL (Antonio, N., Strahorn, F.) A resolution urging Congress to award a Congressional Medal of Honor to the late Senator John Glenn and Mrs. Annie Glenn. (2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible amendments)

HCR BANKING LAWS (Sheehy, M., Ramos, D.) To urge the Congress and the President of the United States to enact legislation that would reinstate the separation of commercial and investment banking function that was in effect under the Glass-Steagall Act. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HCR AMTRAK SERVICE (Sheehy, M.) To urge Congress and the President of the United States to support a federal budget that retains Amtrak passenger service in Ohio. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HCR IMMIGRATION (Ramos, D.) To urge the President of the United States to restore the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program and to urge the Congress of the United States to pass the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act of 2017. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

House Aging & Long Term Care (Committee Record) (Chr. Arndt, S., 644-6011), Rm. 122, 2:30 p.m. or after session

HB HPRS RETIREMENT (Carfagna, R., Ramos, D.) To revise the law governing the State Highway Patrol Retirement System. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

House Criminal Justice (Committee Record) (Chr. Manning, N., 644-5076), Rm. 121, 3 p.m. or after session

HBADOPTIONS (Rezabek, J.) To require the juvenile court judge to provide written consent to certain **283**adoptions involving abused, neglected, or dependent children. (4th Hearing-Possible substitute & amendments)

HBPAROLE MONITORING (Hughes, J., Boggs, K.) To provide for indefinite prison terms for first or second **365**degree felonies and specified third degree felonies, with presumptive release of offenders sentenced to such a term at the end of the minimum term; to generally allow the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction to reduce the minimum term for exceptional conduct or adjustment to incarceration; to allow the Department to rebut the release presumption and keep the offender in prison up to the maximum term if it makes specified findings; to require the Department to establish a reentry program for all offenders released from prison who it intends to have reside in a halfway house or similar facility but who are not accepted by any such facility; to require the Adult Parole Authority to establish maximum work-load and case-load standards for its parole and field officers and have enough trained officers to comply with the standards; to require that GPS monitoring used for offenders released from prison under such monitoring specify restrictions, including inclusionary zones and necessary exclusionary zones; to require the Department to establish system requirements for GPS monitoring of such offenders by the Department or third-party contract administrators; to require the Department to operate a statewide database for law enforcement use containing specified information about such offenders; to require that third-party administrators for GPS monitoring under a new contract with the Department provide and use a law enforcement-accessible crime scene correlation program; and to name the act's provisions the Reagan Tokes Act. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HBREPRODUCTIVE CARE (Howse, S., Lepore-Hagan, M.) To criminalize impeding access to reproductive **234**health care and to create a cause of action for harassment or intimidation of one or more employees of a health care facility. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HBCHILD ENTICEMENT (Duffey, M., Cupp, R.) To create additional criminal prohibitions within the **374**offense of criminal child enticement and to classify criminal child enticement as a tier I sex offense when committed by a registered sex offender. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

House Community & Family Advancement (*Committee Record*) (Chr. Ginter, T., 466-8022), Rm. 114, 3 p.m.

SB CHILD SUPPORT (Coley, B.) To amend the child support laws. (4th Hearing-Possible vote) **70**

HBPUBLIC ASSISTANCE (Young, R.) Regarding the release of information concerning public and medical **340**assistance recipients. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

HBCHILD CARE (Carfagna, R.) Regarding parental notice of serious risks to the health or safety of children **383**receiving child care. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)


HBPARENTAL RIGHTS (Gonzales, A., Rezabek, J.) To generally prohibit a person's blindness from being **309**used to deny or limit custody, parenting time, visitation, adoption, or service as a guardian or foster caregiver, regarding a minor. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HBCHILD SUPPORT (Gavarone, T.) To make changes to the laws governing child support. (1st Hearing-**366**Sponsor)

Wednesday, November 8

Senate Rules & Reference (*Committee Record*) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-7505), Majority Conf. Rm., 11 a.m.

Senate Session (*Committee Record*) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

NOTE: Click bill or resolution number links to see the legislative history compiled by Gongwer News Service. Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill. Click "Full Text" if present to view the text of legislation on the Legislature's Web site.

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | **Fax:** 614-221-7844 | **Email:** gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed,
Staff Writers

© 2017, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.



Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

House Floor Report

1 message

Gongwer News Service <gongwerreports@gongwer-oh.com>

Tue, Oct 31, 2017 at 1:32 PM

Reply-To: gongwerreports@gongwer-oh.com

To: Standard_Subscriber_misc_html@gongwer-oh.com

[View in a browser](#)[News](#) [Bill Tracking](#) [Legislation](#)

HOUSE ACTIVITY REPORT

INTRODUCED

HB 398

MICRO DISTILLERIES (Perales, R., Boggs, K.)
To revise the law governing sales of spirituous liquor by micro-distilleries.

HB 399

HEALTH INSURANCE (Henne, M., Butler, J.)
To enact the Ohio Right to Shop Act to require health insurers to establish shared savings incentive programs for enrollees.

HB 400

BRIDGE NAMING (Holmes, G.)
To designate the bridge spanning Squaw Creek, that is part of State Route 169 in Trumbull County, as the "World War I and World War II Veterans Memorial Bridge."

HB 401

BRIDGE NAMING (Holmes, G.)
To designate the bridge spanning Squaw Creek, that is part of United States Route 422 in Girard, as the "Purple Heart Veterans Memorial Bridge."

HB 402

TELEPHONE REGULATION (Hill, B.)
To revise state regulation of telephone

companies.

CALENDAR FOR COMING SESSION

HB 50

EBT CARDS (Schaffer, T.)

To establish requirements for electronic benefit transfer cards issued under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Wednesday, November 1

HB 119

SNAP (Henne, M., McColley, R.)

Regarding eligibility and benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program and the Medicaid program.

Wednesday, November 1

HB 137

CHILD ABUSE REPORTING (Kent, B.)

To make municipal and county peace officers mandatory reporters of child abuse or neglect.

Wednesday, November 1

HB 174

FRANKLIN COUNTY COURT (Hughes, J., Lanese, L.)

To add two judges to the Domestic Relations Division of the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas to be elected in 2018.

Wednesday, November 1

HB 214

ABORTION (LaTourette, S., Merrin, D.)

To prohibit a person from performing, inducing, or attempting to perform or induce an abortion on a pregnant woman who is seeking the abortion because an unborn child has or may have Down Syndrome.

Wednesday, November 1

HB 292

OHIO RESIDENCY (Scherer, G.)

To modify the test for determining an individual's state of residence for income tax purposes.

Wednesday, November 1

HB 334

BUSINESS INCOME (Scherer, G.)

To provide that wages and guaranteed payments paid by a professional employer organization to the owner of a pass-through entity that has contracted with the organization may be

considered business income.
Wednesday, November 1

REFERRED

Criminal Justice

HB 389

DEATH PENALTY (Antonio, N.)
To abolish the death penalty.

HB 391

ECONOMIC LOSSES (Merrin, D.)
To include the cost of accounting done to determine the extent of economic loss as a type of economic loss for which restitution may be granted.

HB 394

MANDATORY BINDOVERS (Rezabek, J.)
To eliminate mandatory and reverse bindovers, and modify the procedures for discretionary bindovers, of an alleged juvenile offender from a juvenile court to a criminal court; to revise the procedures for determining the delinquent child confinement credit; to revise certain delinquent child financial sanction dispositions and procedures and establish a separate restitution disposition; and to provide special parole eligibility dates for persons with an indefinite or life sentence imposed for an offense other than aggravated murder or another crime involving the purposeful killing of multiple persons committed when the person was under age 18 and special Parole Board procedures in those cases.

Economic Development, Commerce & Labor

HB 385

WAGE INFORMATION (West, T.)
To prohibit a state agency from preventing an employee from discussing the employee's own wages or another employee's wages, to prohibit a state agency from seeking a prospective employee's wage or salary history, to prohibit retaliation against an employee who discusses wages or opposes a prohibited act or practice, and to create the Wage Disparity Study Committee.

HB 392**APIARY DAMAGES (Stein, D.)**

To grant specified apiary owners immunity in personal injury or property damage cases.

Energy & Natural Resources**HB 393****BRINE SALES (DeVitis, T., O'Brien, M.)**

To authorize a person to sell brine derived from an oil and gas operation that is processed as a commodity for use in surface application in deicing, dust suppression, and other applications.

Federalism & Interstate Relations**HB 395****FIREARM ACCESSORIES (Patmon, B.)**

To prohibit the manufacture, sale, or transfer of any trigger crank, bump-fire device, or other product that accelerates a semi-automatic firearm's rate of fire but does not convert it into an automatic firearm.

Finance**HB 396****STEM LOANS (Patterson, J., Carfagna, R.)**

To create the STEM Degree Loan Repayment Program and to make an appropriation.

Financial Institutions, Housing & Urban Development**HB 386****CREDIT FREEZES (Henne, M., Kelly, B.)**

To modify the fees that a credit reporting agency can charge in relation to a credit report freeze.

HB 390**FORCIBLE ENTRY (Merrin, D.)**

To clarify how to calculate certain timelines under which a forcible entry and detainer action must occur.

Government Accountability & Oversight**SB 127****WASTE COLLECTION VEHICLES (LaRose, F.)**

To require motor vehicle operators to take certain actions upon approaching a stationary waste collection vehicle collecting refuse on a roadside.

SB 139

LEGAL MATERIALS (Skindell, M., Eklund, J.)
To adopt the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act.

Health

SB 143

DAY DESIGNATION (Eklund, J.)
To designate September 25 as 'International Ataxia Awareness Day' in Ohio.

HB 397

NEWBORN SCREENING (Boggs, K., Butler, J.)
To include spinal muscular atrophy as an additional disorder to be screened for under the Newborn Screening Program.

Insurance

SB 169

TRAVEL INSURANCE (Wilson, S.)
To oversee the sale of travel insurance.

Transportation & Public Safety

HB 384

VEHICLE TOWING (Gonzales, A.)
To require only one notice to be sent to a vehicle owner and any known lienholder after a vehicle is towed from a private tow-away zone.

HB 387

BRIDGE NAMING (Boccieri, J., Lepore-Hagan, M.)
To designate the bridge spanning State Route 11, that is part of Mahoning Avenue in Austintown Township in Mahoning County, as the "Women Veterans Bridge."

HB 388

LICENSE PLATE (Sykes, E., Roegner, K.)
To create the "Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens" license plate.

Ways & Means

SB 186

BUSINESS INCOME (Peterson, B.)
To provide that wages and guaranteed payments paid by a professional employer organization to the owner of a pass-through entity that has contracted with the organization may be considered business income.

HOUSE SPEAKER'S APPOINTMENTS

**ASSISTED LIVING PROGRAM WORKGROUP: APPOINT REPS. ARNDT
AND ROMANCHUK.**

Please send all correspondence to gongwer@gongwer-oh.com. This mailbox is not regularly monitored.

[View as a Web Page](#)

Copyright 2017, Gongwer News Service/Ohio
17 S. High St., Suite 630, Columbus OH 43215

All Rights Reserved. This message and any attachments may not be forwarded or reproduced without
express permission from Gongwer News Service.

[unsubscribe](#)



Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

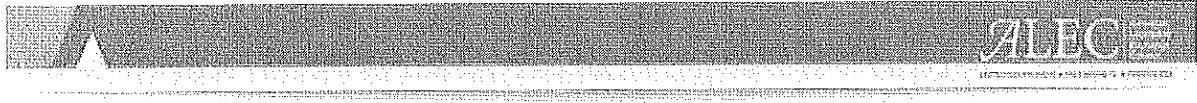
The Center to Restore Balance of Power Update 10/31/2017

1 message

American Legislative Exchange Council <ahackbarth@alec.org>

Tue, Oct 31, 2017 at 5:09 PM

To: latoursm@gmail.com

To view this email as a web page, go [here](#).**Center to Restore the Balance of Power -
October 31, 2017**

Facebook



Twitter

See You in Nashville in December

Federalism is one of the three ALEC guiding principles and will occupy center stage at the States and Nation Policy Summit in Nashville, Tennessee, December 6-8, 2017.

Twenty-seven states have submitted applications and only seven more are needed to compel Congress to call a Convention of the States. At the Meeting of the Task Force on Federalism and International Relations, leaders at the Phoenix Convention in September will offer their perspective of the most recent Convention of States and two model policies to address the 17th Amendment will be considered.

Early Bird Registration ends Thursday, November 9. We look forward to seeing you in Nashville.

[Register for SNPS](#)**Expert Opinion****We Can End the Era of Megafires**

Sen. Jennifer Fielder | State Senator of Montana

Montana Senator Jennifer Fielder, CEO of the American Lands Council, offers one solution to the worsening wildfire seasons in America's West. Senator Fielder observes that over 10,000 people each year

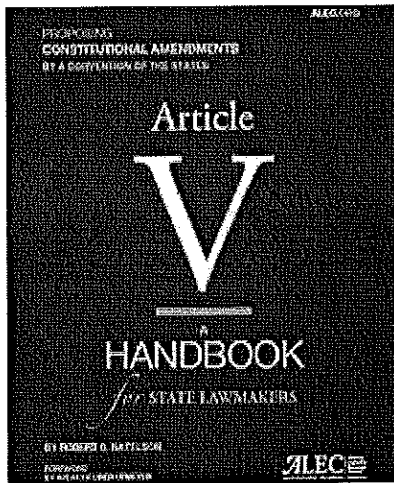


are hospitalized due to wildfire smoke related heart and lung problems, and as many as 2,500 are dying prematurely. Billions of dollars of private and public property are being destroyed in Western wildfires annually. But still, federal employees and so-called environmentalists are attempting to "teach" us to simply accept this era of megafires -- an era that they themselves created.

[Read More](#)

Article V

Article V in the News



ALEC Board of Scholars Member Professor Rob Natelson authored two articles to be highlighted this month. One is an analysis of John Dickinson's 1767 *Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania* featured in the *Washington Post*. The other, a *Heartland Policy Brief* entitled "Why the Constitution's 'Convention for Proposing Amendments' is a Convention of the States," should reassure those who believe the time has come for the states to act given current dysfunction at the federal level but fear the "runaway convention" scenario.

Expert Opinion

Autocracy is on the Rise



Liberal democracy is in retreat, even in countries that were once seen as democratic success stories. According to Freedom House this century has witnessed a rise in authoritarian rule and a reduction of freedom in every indicator it tracks. From free expression to pluralism, from individual rights to rule of law, democracy is fading worldwide. Attacks on the media are increasing, and authoritarian rule is rapidly supplanting rule of law.

This month we highlight Cambodia where the current president is jailing the opposition and Poland which was a pioneering democratic success story in Eastern Europe and is now facing EU censure for tampering with the judiciary and media crackdowns.



Facebook



Twitter



LinkedIn



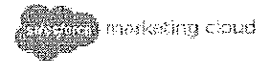
YouTube

7/25/2018

Gmail - The Center to Restore Balance of Power Update 10/31/2017

This email was sent to: latoursm@gmail.com

Powered by



This email was sent by: American Legislative Exchange Council
2900 Crystal Drive, Suite 600 Arlington, VA 22202 United States

We respect your right to privacy - [view our policy](#)

[Manage Subscriptions](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)



Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

Ohio Report, Tuesday, October 31, 2017

1 message

Gongwer News Service <gongwerreports@gongwer-oh.com>

Tue, Oct 31, 2017 at 6:06 PM

To: sml@sarahlatourette.com

OHIO REPORT

[View in a browser](#)[News](#) [Bill Tracking](#) [Legislation](#)

OHIO REPORT TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31

Chardon Shooting Witnesses Push For Resource Officer Training Requirements

PUCO Chair Steers Clear Of Taking Sides On Pending Bills In House Q&A

Licensing Bill Continues To Draw Opposition From Home Inspectors

Opponents Seek 'Middle Ground' On Vision Insurance Bill

Obhof Says Hite Resignation Makes Further Disciplinary Review Moot

Real Estate Groups Back Bill To Require Additional Step For Governments Contesting Property Assessments

House Committee Takes Up Textbook Sales Tax Exemption Bill

Banker Says Exempting Prepaid Cards From Unclaimed Funds Law Would Boost Competitiveness

More Changes Expected For House Bill Allowing Dogs On Patios

Bipartisan Bill Would Create Student Loan Repayment Program To Incentivize STEM Degrees

High Court Green Lights Mining Company's Annexation

House Panel Asks Housing Finance Agency About Demolition, Tax Credits

Ohio Business: Libbey, Diebold, TimkenSteel, More Report Financial Results; Vorys Announces Leadership Change

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Supplemental Event Planner

House Committee Hearings

Ways & Means

Insurance

Financial Institutions, Housing & Urban Development

Economic Development, Commerce & Labor

Education & Career Readiness

ACTIVITY REPORTS

House

Senate

CALENDARS

Day Planner

Please send all correspondence to gongwer@gongwer-oh.com. This mailbox is not regularly monitored.

[View as a Web Page](#)

Copyright 2017, Gongwer News Service/Ohio
17 S. High St., Suite 630, Columbus OH 43215

All Rights Reserved. This message and any attachments may not be forwarded or reproduced without express permission from Gongwer News Service.

[unsubscribe](#)

4 attachments



171031dayplan.htm

49K



Oct31House.htm

63K



Oct31Senate.htm

7K



Oct31.htm

72K



GONGWER Ohio
The Record of Capitol Square Since 1906

Daily Activity Planner for Wednesday, November 1

Legislative Committees

House Transportation & Public Safety (*Committee Record*) (Chr. Green, D., 644-6034), Rm. 017, 9 a.m.

- Autonomous and Connected Vehicles Hearing
- Manufacturers Briefing: To educate the committee on the basics of AV/CV technology and predicted timeline of implementation. Witnesses: Harry Lightsey, Executive Director of Emerging Technologies - General Motors; Al Prescott, Associate General Counsel & Directory of Regulatory Affairs - Tesla; Douglas Longhitano, Manager, Connected & Automated Vehicle Policy - American Honda Motor Co., Inc.

House Health (*Committee Record*) (Chr. Huffman, S., 466-8114), Rm. 121, 9 a.m.

HB DIABETES REGISTRY (Barnes, J.) To establish the Ohio Diabetes Registry. (2nd Hearing-Proponent) **241**

HB ANATOMICAL GIFTS (Antani, N.) Regarding anatomical gifts, transplantation, and discrimination on **332** the basis of disability. (3rd Hearing-Opponent & interested party)

HB AWARENESS MONTH (Lepore-Hagan, M., Howse, S.) To designate April as "Sarcoidosis Awareness **335** Month." (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB PHYSICAL THERAPY (Gavarone, T., Reineke, B.) To modify the laws governing the practice of physical **131** therapy. (4th Hearing-Possible substitute)

HB ABORTION (Hagan, C., Hood, R.) To generally prohibit an abortion of an unborn human individual with a **258** detectable heartbeat and to create the Joint Legislative Committee on Adoption Promotion and Support. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

House Government Accountability & Oversight (*Committee Record*) (Chr. Blessing, L., 466-9091), Rm. 114, 9:30 a.m.

HJR UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (Schuring, K.) Proposing to enact Section 2t of Article VIII of **4** the Constitution of the State of Ohio to allow the General Assembly to provide by law for the issuance of bonds to pay unemployment compensation benefits when the fund created for that purpose is or will be depleted or to repay outstanding advances made by the federal government to the unemployment compensation program. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

HB UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (Schuring, K.) To modify terms describing payments made **382** under the Unemployment Compensation Law, to increase the amount of wages subject to unemployment compensation premiums, to require qualifying employees to make payments to the Unemployment Compensation Insurance Fund, to allow the Director of Job and Family Services to adjust maximum weekly benefit amounts, to reduce the maximum number of benefit weeks, and to make other changes to the Unemployment Compensation Law. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

HB POLITICAL SUBDIVISION SPENDING (Schuring, K., Greenspan, D.) Regarding use of credit cards **312** and debit cards by political subdivisions. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

HB COMMUNITY SCHOOLS (Roegner, K.) Regarding public moneys returned to the state as a result of a finding for recovery issued pursuant to an audit of a community school. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

HB TAX COMPLAINTS (Greenspan, D.) To increase the time within which boards of revision must decide property tax complaints. (2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible amendments)

HCRANTI-SEMITISM (Thompson, A., Greenspan, D.) To condemn the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement and increasing incidents of anti-Semitism. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB PUBLIC RECORDS (Huffman, S., Cera, J.) To include judges as individuals whose residential and familial information is exempt from disclosure under the Public Records Law, and whose addresses public offices, upon request, must redact from records available to the general public on the internet. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB TAX LEVIES (Merrin, D.) To permit local tax-related proposals to appear only on general and primary election ballots and not on an August special election ballot and to modify the information conveyed in election notices and ballot language for property tax levies. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Senate Government Oversight & Reform (Committee Record) (Chr. Coley, B., 466-8072), Finance Hearing Rm., 9:45 a.m.

SB PRISON TERMS (Bacon, K., O'Brien, S.) To provide for indefinite prison terms for first or second degree felonies and specified third degree felonies, with presumptive release of offenders sentenced to such a term at the end of the minimum term; to generally allow the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction to reduce the minimum term for exceptional conduct or adjustment to incarceration; to allow the Department to rebut the release presumption and keep the offender in prison up to the maximum term if it makes specified findings; and to name the act's provisions the Reagan Tokes Law. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

SB OFFENDER RE-ENTRY (Bacon, K., O'Brien, S.) To require the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction to establish a reentry program for all offenders released from prison who it intends to have reside in a halfway house or similar facility but who are not accepted by any such facility; to require the Adult Parole Authority to establish maximum work-load and case-load standards for its parole and field officers and have enough trained officers to comply with the standards; to require that GPS monitoring used for offenders released from prison under such monitoring specify restrictions, including inclusionary zones and necessary exclusionary zones; to require the Department to establish system requirements for GPS monitoring of such offenders by the Department or third-party contract administrators; to require the Department to operate a statewide database for law enforcement use containing specified information about such offenders; to require that third-party administrators for GPS monitoring under a new contract with the Department provide and use a law enforcement-accessible crime scene correlation program; and to name the act's provisions the Reagan Tokes Law. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

SB AGENCY RULEMAKING (Uecker, J.) To amend, for the purpose of adopting a new section number as indicated in parentheses, section 127.18 (106.024); to enact sections 101.352, 101.353, 106.032, 121.93, 121.931, 121.932, and 121.933; and to repeal section 121.76 of the Revised Code to reform agency rule-making and legislative review thereof. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

House State & Local Government (Committee Record) (Chr. Anielski, M., 644-6041), Rm. 122, 10 a.m.

HBSTATE SEAL (Perales, R.) To add a representation of the Wright Brothers' first piloted airplane to the Coat of Arms and Great Seal of the State of Ohio. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HBGOVERNMENT INSURANCE (Wiggam, S.) To authorize counties, townships, and municipal corporations to purchase an employee dishonesty and faithful performance of duty insurance policy, instead of a bond, for protection from loss due to the fraudulent or dishonest actions of, and the failure to perform a duty prescribed by law by, an officer, official, employee, or appointee for which a bond is required by law. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)

SB DAY DESIGNATION (Hackett, B.) To designate the twenty-fifth day of May as "Ohio National Missing Children's Day." (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

HBPIPE MATERIALS (Edwards, J.) To require a public authority to consider all piping materials that meet

121 the engineering specifications for a state-funded water or waste water project. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)

HB GARBAGE FEES (Patterson, J.) To authorize all municipal corporations that charge a garbage collection fee to certify unpaid amounts to the county auditor, who must enter the fees on the property tax list to be collected in the same manner as real property taxes. (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

HB VOTER REGISTRATION (Clyde, K.) To designate the fourth Tuesday of September as "Ohio Voter Registration Day." (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

SB AGENCY CONTRACTS (Manning, G.) To allow a board of alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services to authorize its executive director to execute contracts valued at \$50,000 or less without the board's prior approval. (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

SB DISABILITIES COUNCIL (Burke, D.) To abolish the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Commission, Consumer Advisory Committee, and Governor's Council on People with Disabilities and to establish a state rehabilitation services council known as the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Council. (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

House Insurance (Committee Record) (Chr. Brinkman, T., 644-6886), Rm. 116, 10 a.m.

SB TRAVEL INSURANCE (Wilson, S.) To oversee the sale of travel insurance. (1st Hearing-Sponsor) **169**

HB WORKERS COMPENSATION (Seitz, B., Householder, L.) To prohibit illegal and unauthorized aliens from receiving compensation and certain benefits under Ohio's Workers' Compensation Law. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB VISION CARE INSURANCE (Schuring, K.) Regarding limitations imposed by health insurers on vision care services. (4th Hearing-Possible substitute)

HB LICENSE FEES (Barnes, J., Greenspan, D.) To prohibit the imposition of driver's license and temporary instruction permit reinstatement fees in specified circumstances and to name this act the Reinstatement Fee Amnesty Initiative. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB WORKERS COMPENSATION (Henne, M.) To make changes to the Workers' Compensation Law with respect to self-insuring employers. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

House Higher Education & Workforce Development (Committee Record) (Chr. Duffey, M., 644-6030), Rm. 115, 11 a.m.

HB TENURED FACULTY (Young, R.) To require permanently tenured state university or college faculty members to teach at least three credit hours of undergraduate courses per semester. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute & vote)

House Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357), House Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

House Federalism & Interstate Relations (Committee Record) (Chr. Roegner, K., 466-1177), Rm. 115, 2 p.m. or after session

HR CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL (Antonio, N., Strahorn, F.) A resolution urging Congress to award a Congressional Medal of Honor to the late Senator John Glenn and Mrs. Annie Glenn. (2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible amendments)

HCR BANKING LAWS (Sheehy, M., Ramos, D.) To urge the Congress and the President of the United States to enact legislation that would reinstate the separation of commercial and investment banking function that was in effect under the Glass-Steagall Act. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HCR AMTRAK SERVICE (Sheehy, M.) To urge Congress and the President of the United States to support a federal budget that retains Amtrak passenger service in Ohio. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HCR IMMIGRATION (Ramos, D.) To urge the President of the United States to restore the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program and to urge the Congress of the United States to pass the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act of 2017. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

House Aging & Long Term Care (Committee Record) (Chr. Arndt, S., 644-6011), Rm. 122, 2:30 p.m. or after session

HB HPRS RETIREMENT (Carfagna, R., Ramos, D.) To revise the law governing the State Highway Patrol Retirement System. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

House Criminal Justice (Committee Record) (Chr. Manning, N., 644-5076), Rm. 121, 3 p.m. or after session

HB PAROLE MONITORING (Hughes, J., Boggs, K.) To provide for indefinite prison terms for first or second degree felonies and specified third degree felonies, with presumptive release of offenders sentenced to such a term at the end of the minimum term; to generally allow the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction to reduce the minimum term for exceptional conduct or adjustment to incarceration; to allow the Department to rebut the release presumption and keep the offender in prison up to the maximum term if it makes specified findings; to require the Department to establish a reentry program for all offenders released from prison who it intends to have reside in a halfway house or similar facility but who are not accepted by any such facility; to require the Adult Parole Authority to establish maximum work-load and case-load standards for its parole and field officers and have enough trained officers to comply with the standards; to require that GPS monitoring used for offenders released from prison under such monitoring specify restrictions, including inclusionary zones and necessary exclusionary zones; to require the Department to establish system requirements for GPS monitoring of such offenders by the Department or third-party contract administrators; to require the Department to operate a statewide database for law enforcement use containing specified information about such offenders; to require that third-party administrators for GPS monitoring under a new contract with the Department provide and use a law enforcement-accessible crime scene correlation program; and to name the act's provisions the Reagan Tokes Act. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB REPRODUCTIVE CARE (Howse, S., Lepore-Hagan, M.) To criminalize impeding access to reproductive health care and to create a cause of action for harassment or intimidation of one or more employees of a health care facility. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB ADOPTIONS (Rezabek, J.) To require the juvenile court judge to provide written consent to certain adoptions involving abused, neglected, or dependent children. (4th Hearing-Possible substitute & amendments)

House Community & Family Advancement (Committee Record) (Chr. Ginter, T., 466-8022), Rm. 114, 3 p.m.

SB CHILD SUPPORT (Coley, B.) To amend the child support laws. (4th Hearing-Possible vote)

70

HB PUBLIC ASSISTANCE (Young, R.) Regarding the release of information concerning public and medical assistance recipients. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

HB CHILD CARE (Carfagna, R.) Regarding parental notice of serious risks to the health or safety of children receiving child care. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB PARENTAL RIGHTS (Gonzales, A., Rezabek, J.) To generally prohibit a person's blindness from being used to deny or limit custody, parenting time, visitation, adoption, or service as a guardian or foster caregiver, regarding a minor. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB CHILD SUPPORT (Gavarone, T.) To make changes to the laws governing child support. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Agency Calendar

Congressional Redistricting Working Group, Rm. 313, Statehouse, Columbus, 6 p.m.

Event Planner

Rep. Emilia Sykes (D-Akron) & Sen. Vernon Sykes (D-Akron) fundraiser, Einstein's Bros. Bagels, 41 S. High St., Columbus, 8 a.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Emilia Sykes Campaign and Sykes for Office)

Rep. Stephanie Howse (D-Cleveland) and Rep. Brigid Kelly (D-Cincinnati) news conference on equal pay task force bill, Ladies Gallery, Statehouse, Columbus, 9 a.m.

Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) and Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens to Elect Craig Riedel and/or Kristina Daley Roegner for Ohio)

Rep. Dave Greenspan (R-Westlake) fundraiser, Oliver's, 26 N. High Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Friends of Dave Greenspan)

Ohioans for Payday Lending Reform rally, West Steps, Statehouse, Columbus, 1 p.m.

Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) and Rep. Bill Blessing (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Parlor A/B, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$2,000; Sponsor: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Individual: \$350 to Seitz for Ohio and/or Citizens for Blessing)

Rep. Bernadine Kent (D-Columbus) fundraiser, Lincoln Cafe, 740 E. Long St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Kent for Ohio)

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | **Fax:** 614-221-7844 | **Email:** gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed,
Staff Writers

© 2017, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.



GONGWER Ohio
The Record of Capitol Square Since 1906

House Activity for Tuesday, October 31, 2017

INTRODUCED

HBMICRO DISTILLERIES (Perales, R., Boggs, K.) To revise the law governing sales of spirituous liquor by **398** micro-distilleries. Am. 4303.021 and 4303.041

HBHEALTH INSURANCE (Henne, M., Butler, J.) To enact the Ohio Right to Shop Act to require health **399** insurers to establish shared savings incentive programs for enrollees. Am. 5162.80; to amend for the purpose of adopting a new section number as indicated in parentheses, section 5162.80 (3962.02); and to enact sections 191.11, 191.12, 3962.01, 3962.03, 3962.04, 3962.05, 3962.06, 3962.10, 3962.11, 3962.12, 3962.16, 3962.17, 3962.21, 3962.22, 3962.23, 3962.24, 3962.25, 3962.26, 3962.27, 3962.28, 3962.29, 3962.30, 3962.31, 3962.32, 3962.35, 3966.01, 3966.02, 3966.03, 3966.04, 3966.05, 3966.06, 3966.07, 3966.08, 3966.09, and 5164.65

HBBRIDGE NAMING (Holmes, G.) To designate the bridge spanning Squaw Creek, that is part of State Route **400** 169 in Trumbull County, as the "World War I and World War II Veterans Memorial Bridge." Am. 5534.82

HBBRIDGE NAMING (Holmes, G.) To designate the bridge spanning Squaw Creek, that is part of United **401** States Route 422 in Girard, as the "Purple Heart Veterans Memorial Bridge." Am. 5534.81

HBTELEPHONE REGULATION (Hill, B.) To revise state regulation of telephone companies. Am. 128.01, **402** 128.32, 4165.01, 4905.402, 4905.61, 4927.02, 4927.12, 4927.17, 4927.19, and 4931.05, to enact section 4927.102, and to repeal section 4927.08

CALENDAR FOR COMING SESSION

HB EBT CARDS (Schaffer, T.) To establish requirements for electronic benefit transfer cards issued under the **50** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Wednesday, November 1

HB SNAP (Henne, M., McColley, R.) Regarding eligibility and benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition **119** Assistance program and the Medicaid program.

Wednesday, November 1

HB CHILD ABUSE REPORTING (Kent, B.) To make municipal and county peace officers mandatory **137** reporters of child abuse or neglect.

Wednesday, November 1

HB FRANKLIN COUNTY COURT (Hughes, J., Lanese, L.) To add two judges to the Domestic Relations **174** Division of the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas to be elected in 2018.

Wednesday, November 1

HB ABORTION (LaTourette, S., Merrin, D.) To prohibit a person from performing, inducing, or attempting to **214** perform or induce an abortion on a pregnant woman who is seeking the abortion because an unborn child has or may have Down Syndrome.

Wednesday, November 1

HB OHIO RESIDENCY (Scherer, G.) To modify the test for determining an individual's state of residence for **292** income tax purposes.

Wednesday, November 1

HB BUSINESS INCOME (Scherer, G.) To provide that wages and guaranteed payments paid by a professional **334** employer organization to the owner of a pass-through entity that has contracted with the organization may be considered business income.

Wednesday, November 1

REFERRED

Criminal Justice:

HB DEATH PENALTY (Antonio, N.) To abolish the death penalty. **389**

HB ECONOMIC LOSSES (Merrin, D.) To include the cost of accounting done to determine the extent of **391** economic loss as a type of economic loss for which restitution may be granted.

HB MANDATORY BINDOVERS (Rezabek, J.) To eliminate mandatory and reverse bindovers, and modify the **394** procedures for discretionary bindovers, of an alleged juvenile offender from a juvenile court to a criminal court; to revise the procedures for determining the delinquent child confinement credit; to revise certain delinquent child financial sanction dispositions and procedures and establish a separate restitution disposition; and to provide special parole eligibility dates for persons with an indefinite or life sentence imposed for an offense other than aggravated murder or another crime involving the purposeful killing of multiple persons committed when the person was under age 18 and special Parole Board procedures in those cases.

Economic Development, Commerce & Labor:

HB WAGE INFORMATION (West, T.) To prohibit a state agency from preventing an employee from **385** discussing the employee's own wages or another employee's wages, to prohibit a state agency from seeking a prospective employee's wage or salary history, to prohibit retaliation against an employee who discusses wages or opposes a prohibited act or practice, and to create the Wage Disparity Study Committee.

HB APIARY DAMAGES (Stein, D.) To grant specified apiary owners immunity in personal injury or property **392** damage cases.

Energy & Natural Resources:

HB BRINE SALES (DeVitis, T., O'Brien, M.) To authorize a person to sell brine derived from an oil and gas operation that is processed as a commodity for use in surface application in deicing, dust suppression, and other applications.

Federalism & Interstate Relations:

HB FIREARM ACCESSORIES (Patmon, B.) To prohibit the manufacture, sale, or transfer of any trigger crank, bump-fire device, or other product that accelerates a semi-automatic firearm's rate of fire but does not convert it into an automatic firearm.

Finance:

HB 396 STEM LOANS (Patterson, J., Carfagna, R.) To create the STEM Degree Loan Repayment Program and to make an appropriation.

Gongwer Coverage

Financial Institutions, Housing & Urban Development:

HB CREDIT FREEZES (Henne, M., Kelly, B.) To modify the fees that a credit reporting agency can charge in relation to a credit report freeze.

HB FORCIBLE ENTRY (Merrin, D.) To clarify how to calculate certain timelines under which a forcible entry and detainer action must occur.

Government Accountability & Oversight:

SB WASTE COLLECTION VEHICLES (LaRose, F.) To require motor vehicle operators to take certain actions upon approaching a stationary waste collection vehicle collecting refuse on a roadside.

SB LEGAL MATERIALS (Skindell, M., Eklund, J.) To adopt the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act.

Health:

SB DAY DESIGNATION (Eklund, J.) To designate September 25 as 'International Ataxia Awareness Day' in Ohio.

HB NEWBORN SCREENING (Boggs, K., Butler, J.) To include spinal muscular atrophy as an additional

397 ■ disorder to be screened for under the Newborn Screening Program.

Insurance:

SB 169 ■ **TRAVEL INSURANCE** (Wilson, S.) To oversee the sale of travel insurance.

Transportation & Public Safety:

HB VEHICLE TOWING (Gonzales, A.) To require only one notice to be sent to a vehicle owner and any **384** known lienholder after a vehicle is towed from a private tow-away zone.

HB BRIDGE NAMING (Boccieri, J., Lepore-Hagan, M.) To designate the bridge spanning State Route 11, **387** that is part of Mahoning Avenue in Austintown Township in Mahoning County, as the "Women Veterans Bridge."

HB LICENSE PLATE (Sykes, E., Roegner, K.) To create the "Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens" license plate. **388**

Ways & Means:

SB BUSINESS INCOME (Peterson, B.) To provide that wages and guaranteed payments paid by a **186** professional employer organization to the owner of a pass-through entity that has contracted with the organization may be considered business income.

HOUSE SPEAKER'S APPOINTMENTS

Assisted Living Program Workgroup: Appoint Reps. Arndt and Romanchuk.

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Ways & Means

HB COLLEGE TEXTBOOKS (Duffey, M.) To exempt from sales and use tax textbooks purchased by post-**337** secondary students. (**CONTINUED (See separate story)**; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB PROPERTY VALUES (Merrin, D.) To require local governments that contest property values to formally **343** pass an authorizing resolution for each contest and to notify property owners. (**CONTINUED (See separate story)**; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HBMILITARY TAX EXEMPTION (Perales, R., Butler, J.) To require municipal corporations to exempt from **351** taxation the military pay of members of the commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Public Health Service. (**CONTINUED**; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

The legislation would bring the U.S. Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in line with the armed forces by exempting its members from municipal income tax while on active duty, sponsoring Rep. Rick Perales (R-Beavercreek) said.

"The Officers of the USPHS and NOAA are deployed in hazardous, emergency situations. They were there for the aftermath of 9/11, and the anthrax attacks in Washington DC, New York, Florida, and New Jersey. When

Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf region in 2005, they were there. They were there to respond to the Haitian Earthquake and the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010," he said.

"Superstorm Sandy ravaged the Atlantic Coast in 2012; when help was needed, they were there. Who could neglect to mention their prolonged and repeated deployments to West Africa and throughout the United States in 2014 and 2015 as part of the Ebola response? These examples show that although these men and women are often not on the front lines we typically picture, they put their health and safety on the line to protect all American citizens from harm."

Because the legislation will have a negligible impact on the bottom line of cities, the Ohio Municipal League is not opposed, Rep. Perales said.

Rep. Jim Butler (R-Oakwood), the bill's other sponsor, said the bill is essentially a "technical correction."

"This truly may be the most straightforward, non-controversial bill I have sponsored in my time in the legislature, and I hope this committee will give it expedient consideration on its way to a vote of the full House," he said.

HB PROPERTY TAX (Merrin, D.) To exempt from property taxation the increased value of land subdivided **371** for residential development until construction commences or the land is sold. (CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Vince Squillace, executive vice president of the Ohio Home Builders Association, said new housing starts have declined by 66% in Ohio over a 20-year period.

"New construction starts in Ohio are near the lowest in activity of all the states; Ohio ranks 48th in this important category. Clearly, the state and its residents need relief from escalating home prices and loss of availability of suitable housing choices," he said.

Mr. Squillace said the measure will provide incentives for building, especially in low-activity areas of the state.

"Further, the bill would have little impact in growing areas of the state as an already existing lot shortage, in conjunction with the demand for availability, finds lots being sold in less than one year," he said. "HB371 is a necessary incentive for areas striving to improve their regions to attract prospective employers with a wide variety of housing opportunities which are lacking today."

In written proponent testimony, Thomas Hart, legal counsel for the Building Industry Association of Central Ohio, said current law requires paying increased taxes on land prior to home construction, which only adds to the cost.

"Ohio families can ill afford these additional costs. The cumulative cost impacts of additional taxes applied prior to lot development in Central Ohio can be significant. This adds to the challenge of housing affordability that is a large head-wind to economic growth in central Ohio and is getting worse," he wrote.

Subscriber's Note: For full written testimony, see the [committee's website](#) under Oct.25.

Insurance

HB VISION CARE INSURANCE (Schuring, K.) Regarding limitations imposed by health insurers on vision **156** care services. (CONTINUED (See separate story); 3rd Hearing-All testimony)

HB AUTO INSURANCE (Antani, N.) To create a study committee to author a report making recommendations **284** about ways to reduce the cost of insurance premiums among commercial drivers ages eighteen to twenty-five. (CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Tom Balzer, president of the Ohio Trucking Association, testified that the driver shortage has "reached epic proportions" with about 50,000 too few drivers nationally. Those figures are from the American Trucking Association, which estimates the shortage will reach 250,000 drivers by 2025, he said.

"The intent of HB284 is to establish a short-term study committee to find answers to the issue of the insurability of drivers under the age of 25," Mr. Balzer said. "It is not the intention of this study to discuss insurance practices, but to cooperatively work with trucking companies and the insurance industry to see if there are solutions to ease the employment of drivers under 25 while protecting the integrity of the funds."

Responding to Rep. Michael Henne (R-Clayton), the witness said part of the problem is that there isn't enough data available for insurance companies to adequately vet younger drivers for potential coverage.

"There is a lot of data out there on drivers under the age of 25 on the personal side," Mr. Balzer said. "On the professional side there's not a lot of data out there."

Mike Cope, acting president of the Ohio Coal Association, said in written testimony that qualified and trained drivers are key to ensuring reliable electricity.

"Attracting young people to the trucking industry is extremely difficult due to the cost of providing insurance to young drivers," he wrote. "If (the bill is) successful, young people from Ohio and surrounding states would be attracted to our state to pursue profitable careers with companies operating in Ohio."

Subscribers Note: For full testimony see the committee's website under Oct. 31.

Financial Institutions, Housing & Urban Development

HB PYRAMID SCHEMES (Pelanda, D.) To modify the law governing pyramid promotional schemes. **329** (CONTINUED-SUBSTITUTE; 3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)

The committee adopted a substitute bill that says a violation of the prohibition against a pyramid scheme is considered an unfair or deceptive act or practice and allows the attorney general to enforce violations in the bill, according to Legislative Service Commission staff. (Comp Doc)

HB UNCLAIMED FUNDS (Reineke, B.) To exempt certain open-loop prepaid cards, closed-loop prepaid **353** cards, and rewards cards from the Unclaimed Funds Law. (**CONTINUED** (See separate story); 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

SB COUNTY INVESTMENTS (Wilson, S.) To modify the qualifications regarding notes eligible for **163** investment of county inactive moneys. (**REPORTED**; 2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

The committee voted to report the bill following some supportive testimony.

Warren County Treasurer Barney Wright said the bill would give county treasurers more flexibility in choosing investments. An identical proposal (**HB 46**) has already been approved by the committee and passed the House, he said.

"There's a potential negative in that the risk of default with A bonds is higher than with AA bonds, but that risk is about .04%, which is an extremely small risk," he said.

He said the market has moved away from AA bonds, which now make up only about 10% of the market, compared to 25% when the provision in current law was enacted.

Montgomery County Treasurer Carolyn Rice said the need for the changes arose because the recession led interest rates to drop and remain very low. Investment income generated on her county's portfolio, she said, has dropped from \$27 million in 2007 to \$4.4 million in 2016.

"Since this legislation is permissive, it does not force any county to invest in A-rated bonds if they do not deem it necessary or appropriate," she said. "However, for those of us who see real opportunities and benefits from expanding the categories of corporate bonds we can buy, give us the chance to use our judgment and make these investments to earn more investment income for our county."

She said the changes could help Montgomery County earn at least an extra \$100,000 to \$125,000 per year.

"That is real money that our county could use to address the financial demands we face," she said.

Economic Development, Commerce & Labor

HB HOME INSPECTORS (Hughes, J.) To require the licensure of home inspectors and to create the Ohio **211** Home Inspector Board to regulate the licensure and performance of home inspectors. (CONTINUED-
SUBSTITUTE (See separate story); 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)

HB OUTDOOR DINING AREAS (Lanese, L.) To generally allow an owner, keeper, or harborer of a dog to **263** take the dog in an outdoor dining area of a retail food establishment or food service operation.
(CONTINUED (See separate story); 4th Hearing-Interested Party)

Subscribers Note: Full testimony is available on the committee's website under Oct. 31.

Education & Career Readiness

HB SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS (Patterson, J., LaTourette, S.) To define the necessary qualifications **318** and responsibilities of school resource officers. (CONTINUED (See separate story); 2nd Hearing-
Proponent)

HB SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS (Ginter, T.) Regarding medical examinations for school bus drivers. **338** (CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Brandy Spaulding, director of Chiropractic Services for the Ohio State Chiropractic Association, said chiropractors are one of a few types of healthcare professionals who can be certified by the Federal Motor Carry Safety Administration to provide driver examinations.

In Ohio, chiropractors are already using their certification to perform state-required physicals on truck drivers, she said. The bill would expand their expertise to school bus drivers.

"When it comes to the actual physical or examination of either the truck driver or bus driver the tests are similar in many ways including a review of the person's health history and current and previous health conditions and physical examination to make sure the applicant can meet the driving duties associated with their job," she said.

The differences in the tests are that the school bus driver exams must be repeated annually and the blood pressure requirement is more stringer for truck drivers, Ms. Spaulding added.

She told Rep. John Patterson (D-Jefferson) that organizations representing other types of physicians have not expressed concern with the bill.

HB BULLYING (Greenspan, D.) To enact the "Ohio Anti-Bullying and Hazing Act" with regard to school **360** discipline and bullying and hazing policies at public schools and public colleges. (CONTINUED; 2nd
Hearing-Proponent)

Rev. Morris Eason, owner and CEO of Round1 Ministries, said his organization helps children and families overcome struggles through a combination of boxing, training and life coaching.

He said he's seen firsthand how bullying can affect young people and parents like himself are having to make tough decisions to stop hatred, such as enrolling their children in new schools.

"I am confident that this (bill) will change the life of many of the victims of bullying in our schools," he said.

No bullying prevention programs in Ohio are state funded or required to be followed, according to Values in Action President Stuart Muszynski. The measure would ensure schools are taking a stand against bullying.

"While funding continues to remain an issue for schools, at least HB360 will put schools and parents on notice that there will be serious consequences to the bully when bullying occurs," he said in written testimony.

"It is also essential that the bill requires schools to report and identify incidents even prior to the bully being identified," he continued. "I have a concern that the schools will stonewall identifying the bully to protect the child that has been accused as long as possible, and that would defeat the true purpose of the bill."


Usjid Hameed, public affairs coordinator for the Council on American-Islamic Relations Columbus, also provided written support for the bill.

"HB360 brings a firm and rehabilitation focused approach to prevent future incidences of bullying," he said. "The bill's requirement that the bully be offered counseling while serving his/her suspension aims to uncover and remedy the student's motivations for engaging in bullying."

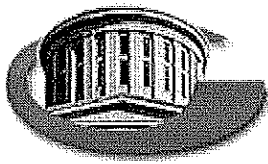
17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | **Fax:** 614-221-7844 | **Email:** gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed,
Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

© 2017, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.



GONGWER Ohio
The Record of Capitol Square Since 1906

Senate Activity for Tuesday, October 31, 2017

INTRODUCED

SB BROADBAND GRANTS (Schiavoni, J., Eklund, J.) To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant **225** Program and to make an appropriation. Am. 184.10 and to enact sections 122.97, 122.971, 122.972, 122.973, 122.974, 122.975, 122.976, 122.977, and 122.978

SB TAX HOLIDAY (Bacon, K.) To provide for a permanent three-day sales tax "holiday" each August during **226** which sales of clothing and school supplies are exempt from sales and use tax. Am. 5739.02, 5739.03, and 5739.05

SENATE PRESIDENT'S APPOINTMENTS

Correctional Institution Inspection Committee: Sen. Uecker

Environmental Education Council: Sen. Gardner

Joint Committee on College Affordability: Sen. Dolan


Joint Education Oversight Committee: Sen. Manning

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | **Fax:** 614-221-7844 | **Email:** gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed,
Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

© 2017, Gongwer News Service, Inc. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part without the express permission of the publisher is in violation of the federal Copyright Law (17 USC 101 et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.



GONGWER Ohio

The Record of Capitol Square Since 1906

Volume #86, Report #210 -- Tuesday, October 31, 2017

Chardon Shooting Witnesses Push For Resource Officer Training Requirements

Chardon High School staff who saw the state's deadliest school shooting unfold are calling on lawmakers to set qualifications for school-based law enforcement officers.

Tim Armelli, a teacher and coach at the school, and Frank Hall, a former CHS coach, were present when a student opened fire in their building on Feb. 27, 2012. Mr. Hall is credited with chasing off the gunman who killed three students and injured three others.

"That day, it never leaves my mind too far," Mr. Hall told the House Education & Career Readiness Committee on Tuesday.

Along with Chardon Mayor Nancy McArthur, Mr. Armelli and Mr. Hall are backing a measure ([HB 318](#)) inspired by their school that they say will lower the odds another school will suffer a similar tragedy.

"House Bill 318, I believe, is a necessity in moving to this end and providing Ohio's children with the protection they deserve," Mr. Armelli said.

The measure would require new school resource officers to receive 40 hours of training. It also creates a list of qualities districts should consider when making hiring decisions. (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, August 14, 2017](#))

Prior to the shooting, Chardon High School didn't have a resource officer. It does now, and the school's Frank Hall Foundation advocates for all schools throughout the state to employ SROs.

Mr. Armelli said it's important those officers are trained properly.

"Throughout Ohio there currently exist confusion and inconsistency in the term and training of School Resource Officers. Local school officials can use the term school resource officer as they see fit. They can determine what training, if any, a school resource officer needs," he said. "We need to set a standard by which the people in our buildings, with the task of protecting our children's lives, are held to a high standard of moral, ethical, and legal responsibility."

In addition to being trained to address active shooter situations and other emergencies, SROs would also have to be prepared to play bigger roles in schools' daily cultures if the bill is enacted.

Ms. Arthur said the Chardon police officer who works in the school serves as a sort of counselor and educator as well.

"The results of having an SRO are not necessarily something that can be measured, graphed, or documented," Ms. McArthur said. "But those of us in Chardon know that having an SRO in our public schools contributes to our students' physical safety, their mental health, and to their growth as contributing members of our society."

She did raise concerns, however, about how the bill would address situations in which a trained SRO is on vacation or taking a personal day and needs to be temporarily replaced by another officer.

Chardon Police Department will provide a substitute if they're able, she said. Mr. Hall said Lakeside High School, where he works now, contracts with Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office and wouldn't have the option of bringing in a substitute officer.

Mr. Armelli told the panel that the bill grandfathers in existing SROs so they wouldn't be required to complete 40 hours of training. However, he said they would be encouraged to attend trainings or continued education seminars hosted by the Ohio School Resource Officer Association.

PUCO Chair Steers Clear Of Taking Sides On Pending Bills In House Q&A

Representatives on Tuesday attempted to pin down Ohio Public Utilities Commission Chairman Asim Haque's opinion on pending legislation that would ban electric security plans and grant cost recovery for nuclear and OVEC plants.

But they were largely unsuccessful, with Mr. Haque deferring to the legislature as the state's lawmaking arm and saying the PUCO will carry out the law as written. In each case, he declined to offer specific direction on which direction lawmakers should head in their discussions on pending bills.

The back-and-forth followed a presentation Mr. Haque delivered to the House Public Utilities Committee at the invitation of Chairman Rep. Robert Cupp (R-Lima). The presentation was elementary in nature, essentially a crash course on the roles of the PUCO and other regulatory bodies. But it gave committee members a chance to pepper Mr. Haque with questions ranging from the rudimentary to the in-depth.

Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) steered the discussion toward Rep. Mark Romanchuk's bill (HB 247), which is staunchly opposed by utilities. In addition to banning ESPs, it would enable customers to be refunded charges the Supreme Court later rules improper. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 5, 2017)

Mr. Haque said the system could be improved but declined to offer suggestions regarding whether the legislature should focus on amended current law related to electric security plans, or ESPs, or to code sections pertaining to market rate offers.

"I think there are ways that our current statutory regime could be potentially made better," Mr. Haque said. "I don't necessarily know if it's by maintaining the ESP rubric going forward with some amendments or pushing down the MRO path with some amendments."

Mr. Haque said he believes that utilities will be concerned with the MRO path due to uncertainty over the riders they could otherwise have received through an ESP.

"We will enact the statutory regime that you create so from my perspective could there be some sort of a marrying between ESP or MRO? Were that to occur I think there's merit to that," he said.

Rep. Seitz also pressed for details about how the PUCO determines whether a utility's proposed ESP is "more favorable in the aggregate than the rate offer," which is a statutory question the commission is required to consider in such cases.

"There has been plenty of debate about whether the PUCO has performed that test appropriately," Mr. Haque acknowledged, noting that some of that took place before his 2013 appointment. "My understanding is there's distress about whether the PUCO should be evaluating the ESP or MRO on a quantitative or qualitative basis."

Mr. Seitz posed the question a second time, leading Mr. Haque to request more time to put together a response with PUCO staff. The factors the commission considers, he added, are publicly spelled out in each of the PUCO's relevant orders.

"I don't want to tell you wrong or steer you wrong in this setting so let me get back to you please," Mr. Haque said.

Questions also veered into another debated PUCO action - its self-initiated investigation into submetering and the resulting order that critics have said oversteps the PUCO's jurisdiction. (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, September 12, 2017](#))

Answering a question from [Rep. Kristin Boggs](#) (D-Columbus), Mr. Haque addressed the commission's recent order, which establishes a framework to regulate submetering companies who charge more than what customers would face from a regulated utility.

"What we have done principally is try to ensure we are preventing the process of price gouging submetering," he said. "The PUCO has acted in a matter it believes will be true to its jurisdiction."

Rep. Boggs also questioned how the PUCO would respond if its jurisdiction over submetering were expanded through legislation. Mr. Haque answered that he believes a consumer protection component is missing from the current framework, but that the PUCO will "take your cue."

Mr. Haque also declined an invitation from [Rep. John Rogers](#) (D-Mentor-on-the-Lake) to offer his take on pending controversial bills to grant cost recovery to FirstEnergy nuclear plants through the creation of zero-emission credits ([SB 128](#), [HB 178](#), & [HB 381](#)) (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, October 27, 2017](#))

The chairman replied that carbon pricing has been oft-debated for years but that pricing carbon would be "politically challenging."

"On the generation front, I think again, there are a number of arguments on every side of this debate and I think the zero-emitting generation resource nuclear is another policy piece to consider," Mr. Haque said. "I'm sorry I can't give you anything more than that."

[Rep. Tim Ginter](#) (R-Salem) and Rep. Romanchuk also sought clarity on the PUCO's previous moves granting of cost recovery for AEP and Dayton Power & Light for their ownership shares of the Ohio Valley Electric Corp.

Those two companies, along with FirstEnergy and Duke, are pushing bills to grant a more uniform approach to cost recovery for their ownership stakes in OVEC. ([HB 239](#) & [SB 155](#)) (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, October 23, 2017](#))

"It sounds like that's the job of the PUCO," Rep. Romanchuk said of granting that cost recovery. "Why are we hearing a bill on OVEC when they're already getting cost recovery?"

On this too, Mr. Haque demurred. "I can just tell you the facts," he responded.

Licensing Bill Continues To Draw Opposition From Home Inspectors

Home inspectors told a packed House committee Tuesday they still have concerns with a bill creating a licensing structure for the industry.

The House Economic Development, Commerce & Labor Committee accepted a substitute version of the bill ([HB 211](#)), making changes to education requirements, the approach to grandfathering inspectors, and limiting the liability of realtors who recommend inspectors.

Inspectors raised concerns that ranged from a proposal to place more burdens on the industry to the lack of language addressing the problem of realtors recommending inspectors who gloss over problems in order to keep sales from falling through.

Realtors, meanwhile, urged support for the bill.

Scott Williams, vice president of public policy for the Ohio Association of Realtors, said the substitute bill comes from meetings with the industry and lawmakers.

"A great deal of attention was given during these discussions to ensure that the requirements to act as a home inspector were such that they would protect consumers, but also not be overly burdensome, intrusive or represent a significant barrier to those already practicing in the current unregulated environment," he said.

Rep. Michele Lepore-Hagan (D-Youngstown) asked why the bill now allows all of the classes to be taken online.

Mr. Williams said the change was made to ensure all options were available.

Peer review inspections would still be required, he said, and there is still a requirement that they still have to demonstrate competency in the field.

Rod Berning, owner of Berning & Associates Inc. in Pickerington, said there is a need for improving the quality of home inspectors, but doubted that the bill would achieve that goal.

Mr. Berning said the biggest issue is that buyers will file complaints against home inspectors for not identifying problems that can't be found in a visual inspection.

The state recovery fund, he said, is limited to \$40,000, which might not cover the cost of a repair, he said.

He encouraged the committee to review the issue of errors and omissions insurance, and said the recovery fund likely won't provide the protection hoped for.

Another home inspector, Scott Campbell, also urged the committee to require inspectors to carry errors and omission insurance.

Douglas Curfman, a home inspector, said the bill doesn't help the home buyer and puts an undue burden on the home inspector.

He said having real estate agents refer inspectors is a conflict of interest, and while the bill requires at least three referrals, it doesn't prohibit the agent from offering a suggested preference.

"There needs to be a firewall, a prohibition on referrals between the buyer and real estate agent," he said.

The bill, he said, would also create more burdensome costs on the state than it anticipates.

"By putting a wall on referrals between the buyer and real estate agent and letting the market place weed out the bad inspectors we will have accomplished the desired consumer protection," he said.

David Szalay, a home inspector, said the attorney general's office has only received 15 complaints about home inspectors in the past five years.

"I submit there is no demonstrated need for licensing home inspectors here in Ohio," he said. "In the event and out of concern of home buyers in the home inspection process if a legitimate situation arises that it is injurious to them, that citizen home buyer already has an avenue to file a complaint."

The bill includes no provisions to educate home buyers about home inspections, such as how to select one, what are industry standards and what are appropriate expectations.

He said the main problems with bad inspectors were soft inspections, in which the inspector downplays problems to ensure the deal goes through, along with missed communications and unreal expectations.

Joseph Jefferys, president of the HomeSpection Training Institute, said it is wrong for realtors to recommend home inspectors or provide lists of inspectors.

"A client should do their own due diligence on picking a home inspector such as a client deciding on a realtor," he said. "This provision lets a realtor promote a home inspector that might be friends, family or a business

acquaintance."

He suggested the 80 hours training should be hands-on, not online, and only continuing education should be done online.

"It is totally impossible to learn our profession online from a home inspection book except for terminology," he said. "I can't imagine someone taking a cover off from a 200 amp service panel box without proper hands on training. It has been deadly. No online course should be allowed for pre-licensing."

Opponents Seek 'Middle Ground' On Vision Insurance Bill

Interested party meetings over a divisive bill to revise vision-related health care contracts will continue in the face of opposition from vision care plans.

That's according to Chairman Rep. Tom Brinkman (R-Cincinnati), who presided over a third hearing on the bill from Rep. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton) on Tuesday.

The measure (HB 156), which is pending before the House Insurance Committee, has the backing of the Ohio Optometric Association, which argues it will protect small optometric practices while preserving patient choice. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, September 13, 2017)

But nine groups testified in person or through written comments this week that bill will interfere with their relationships with health plans and raise consumer costs by preventing plans from negotiating product discounts.

One interested party meeting has already taken place and Rep. Brinkman said another round of negotiations over the bill has been scheduled for mid-November. "We'll see what happens from there," he said.

The bill would prohibit contracting entities from requiring vision care providers to accept a payment amount for services or materials unless they are covered and would institute disclosure requirements on health insurers and providers not covered or out-of-network. (Analysis)

It would also prohibit specified items from being included in health care contracts. Contracts would be banned from: requiring a provider to accept as payment an amount for non-covered materials or services, requiring a provider to participate in a contract as a condition for participating in any other contract, directly limiting a provider's choice of sources and suppliers of vision materials, and prohibiting a provider from describing out-of-network options to an enrollee.

Under the legislation, a violation would constitute an unfair and deceptive act in the business of insurance.

Julian Roberts, executive director of the National Association of Vision Care Plans, said the group appreciates the sponsor's efforts to incorporate consumer protections but that they are "seriously flawed and one-sided."

Part of the concern, he said, is that the bill would prevent insurers from negotiating discounts for non-covered materials. Discounts are popular, he said, given that these items are generally marked up 200-400%. A result, he said, will be that consumers will increasingly seek discounts online or out-of-state.

"We have had some dialogue with the Ohio Optometric Association," Mr. Roberts said. "We've had an initial meeting and discussed some items and think there are still some opportunities to find some middle ground on some of these issues."

The OOA, in contrast, has argued in proponent testimony that the bill's provisions will foster competition in the market and thereby drive down consumer costs.

"By eliminating insurers' ability to set these artificial fee restrictions for products and services that are not covered under a benefit plan, HB 156 will enable more competition in the marketplace, helping to keep costs low and allowing patients to do business with the provider they trust rather than seeking products from other

retailers who do not have these similar limitations, some of whom are located out of state," according to OOA President Beckie Brown.

But Joe Wende, senior director of medical services for Eye Med, said it's likely the bill's passage would "be detrimental to the public health in Ohio."

"Several proposed provisions within HB156 are likely to directly or indirectly inhibit eligible beneficiaries from receiving preventative eye care services and are likely to result in increased expense to beneficiaries when purchasing needed vision correction," he added.

Bill Moore of Davis Vision said in his own testimony that the bill "restricts patient choices while raising their out of pocket costs. It provides no benefit at all to Ohio consumers or employers."

Opponents submitting written testimony include the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, the Ohio Council of Retail Merchants, the Ohio Association of Health Plans, Union Benefits Trust, Voices for Ohio's Children and America's Health Insurance Plans.

Obhof Says Hite Resignation Makes Further Disciplinary Review Moot

Cliff Hite's departure from the legislature amidst sexual harassment claims effectively removed the chamber's most severe punishment option - expulsion - and as a result, further disciplinary action is unavailable, according to Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina).

The leader's assessment came in response to a memorandum from Legislative Service Commission Director Mark Flanders, who suggested that further "disciplinary investigation" was warranted in light of the complaint against the lawmaker filed by one of his employees.

The agency director made the suggestion as he released details of the complaint, which alleged that Mr. Hite repeatedly sought sex from an LSC staff member despite being rejected on several occasions. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 30, 2017)

In an Oct. 30 letter to Mr. Flanders, the Senate president said that while the Ohio Constitution allows each house of the legislature to "punish its members for disorderly conduct," up to and including expulsion, those options are no longer available given Mr. Hite's exit.

"I am unaware of any potential disciplinary actions that could be taken by the Senate above and beyond expulsion (a remedy that became moot upon Senator Hite's resignation)," Sen. Obhof wrote. "Nevertheless, I have forwarded the findings of your investigation to the Legislative Inspector General to ensure that all appropriate action has been taken in this matter."

Legislative Inspector General Tony Bledsoe said Mr. Hite's resignation also effectively ends his office's jurisdiction in the matter.

"Our authority to investigate violations of the code of conduct and to recommend sanctions for misconduct terminates once the accused is no longer a member or a staff person," he said. "I think that's similar to most organizations."

LSC's report is also not expected to lead to any prosecutorial action given the lack of any apparent criminal activity involved, leaving the matter up to civil litigation should the complainant pursue it.

Mr. Hite has retained Mark Wagoner, a former state senator, as his attorney. He referred to Mr. Hite's written response to LSC and said the firm would have no further comment.

Real Estate Groups Back Bill To Require Additional Step For Governments Contesting Property Assessments

Representatives of the real estate industry on Tuesday called for passage of a bill to add an additional hurdle for local governing bodies seeking to challenge property valuations.

The measure ([HB 343](#)) would require local governments to pass resolutions authorizing individual complaints filed by their attorneys in an effort to contest real property assessments.

Testifying on behalf of the Ohio Apartment Association, Rob Risman told members of the House Ways & Means Committee that Ohio is one of the few states that allow for a change in property valuation based on a complaint, making it difficult to plan for increases.

"This practice not only increases my property taxes at unexpected times and beyond the normal inflationary increases I have budgeted for, it also means that I must spend valuable time and money defending against these complaints," he said. "We find that other local governments that are not represented by certain law firms that take this aggressive posture have taken a much more fair and reasonable approach regarding a property's value."

Mr. Risman told the panel that in some jurisdictions in which he owns apartments, his assessments are challenged any time a nearby property sells. As an example, he said a 171-unit apartment complex in Lakewood valued at \$5.6 million was challenged by the city school district's board of education, which projected the value at \$9.1 million based on a nearby sale.

To contest the school board's challenge, Mr. Risman said he was forced to hire a licensed engineer to testify to all the work needed at the apartment building, which amounted to almost \$10 million in capital needs.

The board of revisions sided with Mr. Risman. However, the school board has asked the Board of Tax Appeals to take up the case.

"Our system of property tax assessment is supposed to guarantee at least some stability of the assessment where there have been no improvements to the property. House Bill 343 is a good first step in reasserting that principal into the system. I appreciate that local governments are facing tough fiscal times," he said.

"But it is fundamentally unfair that I and my fellow OAA members are being targeted by outside parties, in some cases on an annual basis, for re-assessment. We are constantly being put in the position of defending against these complaints - marshalling legal and market expertise at their own great expense - when these resources and funds could be much better spent improving the real estate."

Asked by [Rep. Gary Scherer](#) (R-Circleville) about the payment arrangement between the school board and its attorney, Mr. Risman said he believes the attorney works on a contingency basis.

[Rep. Emilia Sykes](#) (D-Akron) questioned if this was a situation unique to that part of the state, saying, "The state of Cuyahoga County kind of does its own things."

Mr. Risman said it varies by county and city. But he added that he does not run in to the same problems with the properties he owns in Michigan and Florida.

Jeff McClain, director of tax and economic policy at the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, said the bill seeks to curtail the ability of local governments to cast "a wide net in the hope that they can catch a few big fish."

He said that often occurs in cities and their suburbs.

"This doesn't mean that smaller entities don't file this type of action, in fact we make great use of it to fairly adjust an appraisal when appropriate. There is simply more interaction between government and taxpayer in these areas," he said.

"I have a suspicion that this is because the officials there are more answerable to the taxpayers. They know each other and deal fairly. This bill would simply ask government officials to take greater care in filing counter-complaints to those properties clearly deserving of reconsideration."

Tim Williams, executive director of the Ohio Manufactured Homes Association, said in written proponent testimony that residents of manufactured homes can be stuck with a higher property tax bill if others homes in a park are being upgraded.

"For a local entity to prey on these improvements for the express intent of adding to the owner's tax base, we believe will have a chilling effect on new investment in parks, because park owners know major improvements will trigger an automatic tax battle with local entities including large attorney bills to fight the increases," he said.

Dan Acton, government affairs director of the Ohio Real Estate Investors Association, also provided written proponent testimony in which he said the group supports the bill because "investors operate on razor thin profit margins for a property."

"An unexpected repair, a tenant who does not pay rent, terminates a lease early or vacates without notice, unpaid water bills, increases in property taxes that we don't get to vote for or directly benefit from or any layering of government fees that we are subjected to reduce the profits for a property owner that could otherwise be used to reduce the overall debt on the property," he wrote.

House Committee Takes Up Textbook Sales Tax Exemption Bill

At least one lawmaker has not given up on his quest to exempt the purchase of post-secondary textbooks from sales taxes.

Legislation to do just that received its first hearing before the House Ways & Means Committee Tuesday, with sponsoring Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) telling the panel that it "is an important step in lowering the increasingly high cost of attending college in this state, thus helping to make college more affordable for all students and families in Ohio."

By applying sales taxes to textbooks purchased by students, Ohio is in the minority of states, Rep. Duffey said. Across the country, 27 states already exempt textbooks from sales taxes.

In the 10-year period from 2006 to 2016, textbook prices increased by 88%. This school year, the cost of textbooks per student at a public four-year institution is expected to be \$1,250, according to Rep. Duffey.

The measure "will make great strides in lowering the overall cost of receiving an education which burdens many students and families in the state of Ohio. A majority of states in this country already offer tax exemptions on textbooks required for coursework in their colleges and universities and it is time that Ohio is added to the list," he said.

The legislation requires a student to provide certain verifying information before receiving the exemption.

Under the bill, in order to purchase a tax-exempt textbook in-person, a student would be required to provide a student ID card and either a copy of a list of textbooks needed for courses, or written proof of enrollment in the course and a signed statement confirming the student is purchasing a textbook as a requirement for a course.

For online purchases, students would be required to provide their name, address, course title, name and address of the institution and the identification number on the student's ID card.

"The companies of Amazon and Barnes and Noble currently have procedures in place for colleges and universities which fall in tax exempt states on how students are able to enjoy tax exempt textbook orders and offer comprehensive explanations for the student on how to provide proper documentation for their tax exempt order," Rep. Duffey said.

Rep. Duffey introduced similar legislation (HB308, 131st General Assembly) in the previous General Assembly that stalled after a single committee hearing. While the Legislative Service Commission has yet to score the new

bill, the previous iteration was found to result in \$25 million in forgone annual state tax revenue and \$6 million in county tax revenue.

To alleviate any concerns about lost revenue, Rep. Duffey said he is open to amending the bill to include a "delayed trigger" that would permanently put the exemption in place once state revenues exceed projections in excess of \$40 million. (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, September 22, 2017](#))

Banker Says Exempting Prepaid Cards From Unclaimed Funds Law Would Boost Competitiveness

An Ohio banker urged a House panel Tuesday to exempt prepaid cards from the state's unclaimed funds law, saying the requirement to remit unused money puts financial institutions at a competitive disadvantage.

The proposal ([HB 353](#)) would exempt prepaid cards from the requirement to remit unused money after five years.

Eric Gillett, chairman and CEO of Sutton Bank, told the House Financial Institutions, Housing & Urban Development Committee his bank has a prepaid card program focused mostly on business-to-business, reloadable general-purpose cards and payroll cards.

He said the use of prepaid cards is growing, and his bank is in the top 15 prepaid card issuing banks in the country.

Ohio financial institutions are at a disadvantage, he said, because the state's unclaimed funds laws apply to open-loop gift cards and require Ohio-based institutions to remit unused funds after five years.

Closed-loop cards, such as ones used for Starbucks, are exempt from the law, he said.

"Program managers or processors seeking an institution to issue open-loop gift card products will not partner with an Ohio institution because of the escheatment laws," he said. "They choose instead to deliver the economic benefits of their product to institutions subject to the laws of a state like South Dakota that does not require institutions to remit unused open-loop gift card funds to the state."

He said the bill could allow his bank to add employees to work on the open-loop prepaid card program, and help other banks that are located in small towns and rural Ohio.

"Consumers will not be harmed by changing the unclaimed funds law as open-loop gift cards are not a new phenomenon," he said. "The cards never expire, are widely issued, widely accepted, and have been utilized for years. The difference is Ohio has not allowed financial institutions to competitively participate in the material programs due to the current restrictive unclaimed funds law."

Mr. Gillett told [Rep. David Leland](#) (D-Columbus) that the unused money on cards after five years goes back to program managers, not the financial institution.

[Rep. Scott Wiggam](#) (R-Wooster) asked what happens when a prepaid card ends up with five or ten cents on it after most of it is used.

Mr. Gillett said the money could go back to the program managers, which is not necessarily the bank.

"Financial institutions make their money off the sharing of the revenue interchange, when the cards are spent," he said.

[Rep. Catherine Ingram](#) (D-Cincinnati) asked how much money is being lost to unclaimed funds.

In the case of Sutton Bank, the money left on a card that would be left on a card is miniscule, he said.

Rep. Ron Young (R-Leroy) asked if there was a way to determine how much money goes to unclaimed funds in Ohio from these cards.

Mr. Gillett said he has asked the state but was not sure if the information was available.

More Changes Expected For House Bill Allowing Dogs On Patios

The sponsor of a House bill to allow dogs on restaurant patios is proposing changes as it continues to draw interest in committee.

Rep. Laura Lanese (R-Grove City) told the House Economic Development, Commerce & Labor that the proposed substitute version of the bill (HB 263) includes a list of restrictions on the practice.

Chairman Rep. Ron Young (R-Leroy) said the committee would consider the substitute version next week.

The new version of the bill would clarify that it does not affect service dogs in indoor or outdoor dining areas, and it would require dogs in outdoor areas to remain on a non-retractable leash. Business can also ask patrons with unruly dogs to leave, she said.

Restaurant employees would be prohibited from intentionally touching dogs, and must wash hands immediately if they do. Restaurants would also be required to maintain a kit for cleaning up dog waste, she said.

"With the restrictions of this sub bill put in place, there's no reason why restaurant owners shouldn't be given a chance to bolster their revenue opportunities," she said.

Dr. Tod Beckett, president of the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association, said state and local officials should be given the authority to restrict the presence of dogs on patios during disease outbreaks.

"The restrictions would be temporary and allow the disease source to be identified and the disease contained," he said. "Both agencies have veterinarians on staff to specifically monitor animal and human diseases."

Rep. Al Landis (R-Dover) asked if he believed the restaurant should be required to sanitize the area after animal waste is cleaned up.

Dr. Beckett said there are some diseases that can be spread through animal waste. He said restaurants should consider the staffing necessary to maintain a clean environment.

Rep. Landis suggested restaurants could have training programs through the training program.

Rep. Ron Young asked if similar cleanliness and sanitation regulations should be required for other places, such as dog parks, that see a lot of animals.

The concentration of animals in an area, Dr. Beckett said, plays a large role in the risk of disease.

Rep. Young asked for data on dog-related incidents that happened at restaurants or other similar businesses.

Jason Gray, assistant executive director of Pilot Dogs Inc., said his group's dogs are trained to behave in certain ways, and those that are not trained can interfere with guide dogs.

Rep. Young asked if he had any data on the issues caused by non-guide dogs in social settings.

Mr. Gray said retractable leashes are a concern. Guide dogs should be left alone, and when other dogs greet them, it can distract the guide dogs.

"That's one thing we wanted the committee to consider was how those dogs who are not service dogs would affect our dogs," he said.

Rep. Young asked if he was suggesting not allowing any interaction between service dogs and pets.

"Are you suggesting that pets, as such, just be kept at home at all times?" he asked.

Mr. Gray said he advises people not to take service dogs to dog parks and other situations. He said his group doesn't have a stance on the bill.

Rep. Landis said the service dogs are allowed to be inside the restaurant, unlike pets, which wouldn't be allowed under the bill.

Bipartisan Bill Would Create Student Loan Repayment Program To Incentivize STEM Degrees

Graduates who have diplomas in STEM-related disciplines and working in related fields in Ohio would be eligible for student debt relief under a recently introduced bipartisan bill.

The measure ([HB 396](#)), sponsored by Rep. John Patterson (D-Jefferson) and [Rep. Rick Carfagna](#) (R-Genoa Twp.), would create the STEM Degree Loan Repayment Program.

Students who graduate in 2017 or later with any type of degree in a STEM field and are employed in that field in Ohio will be eligible for the program. Annual payments made directly to loan companies will range from \$2,000 for associate's degrees to \$4,000 for bachelor's degrees and \$8,000 for master's and doctoral degrees.

Graduates can stay in the repayment program for up to five years, according to the bill's sponsors.

"This legislation addresses a convergence of two problems that are dramatically impacting Ohio's economy: we are among the worst in the nation for student debt burden, and we continue to hear from the business community about Ohio's lack of STEM-related skilled labor," Rep. Carfagna said in a statement.

"Ohio has the 10th highest average student debt, while our continued brain drain of STEM talent continues to hamper Ohio employers' ability to grow facilities and add workers. I'm eager to begin discussions on how we can best retain our skilled talent in a way that provides economic opportunities for our graduates, stimulates STEM entrepreneurship, and grows emerging technology sectors right here in Ohio."

Rep. Patterson added: "It is a known fact that for years, many STEM students who attend our universities leave Ohio upon graduation for better-paying jobs in other states."

"This legislation will help incentivize STEM specialists to stay in Ohio, fostering economic development that will benefit our students, our business community and our state as we strive to establish a workforce for the economy of the future," he said.

The bill follows Rep. Carfagna's efforts to expand computer science and technology courses in schools. He has sponsored legislation ([HB 170](#)) currently before the Senate Education Committee that would set standards for such courses and allow students to substitute them for certain math classes.

It's also in line with efforts to increase STEM exposure in the state. The executive budget included language that allows for the creation of STEAM schools, which have a focus on art as well as science, technology, engineering and math.

The administration also recently pushed for a change that permitted the designation of K-8 schools as STEM. (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, December 11, 2017](#))

High Court Green Lights Mining Company's Annexation

A mining company will be able see its land annexed into the city of Marion despite not getting approval from a railway with interests on the property, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled Tuesday.

In a per curiam decision, the court found that Norfolk Southern Railway's two strips of land on the 224-acre property owned by National Lime & Stone Company amount to rights-of-way, and therefore the company is not an owner of the land and is not required to sign off on the expedited annexation.

The case made its way to the high court after the Marion County commissioners failed to approve the annexation of the land in Grand Prairie Township on the grounds that Norfolk Southern had not agreed to the move. The Third District Court of Appeals dismissed the mining company's request for a writ of mandamus, leading the case to the high court, its media arm reported.

"The inevitable result of the commissioners' interpretation would be that any railroad that holds a fee interest in a territory proposed for annexation will be deemed to be an owner whose consent is required for the annexation to proceed," the majority's decision reads. "Yet the plain language of the statute demonstrates a legislative intent to exempt some railroad interests held in fee - specifically rights-of-way in fee - from the statutory definition of 'owner' in such proceedings."

The rights-of-way in question in the case are 60-foot and 75-foot strips of land that the commissioners found required approval from Norfolk to move forward with the annexation.

"In contrast to the statutory interpretation advanced by the commissioners and adopted by the court of appeals, the interpretation advanced by National Lime - that the strip of land upon which a railroad company constructs its roadbed is necessarily a right-of-way, whether owned in fee, taken by easement, or by dedication and acceptance - gives effect to each of the words in the statute and conforms to the technical or particular meaning of the term 'right-of-way' as it is used in the railroad industry," the majority wrote in its decision.

The majority was comprised of Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor and Justice Judith French, Justice Bill O'Neill and Justice Patrick Fischer.

In a separate opinion, Justice Sharon Kennedy concurred in part and dissented in part. She found the 60-foot strip of land to be a right of way. However, because the deed of the 75-strip foot of land includes potential uses she determined that it is not a right-of-way and the mining company is required to seek Norfolk's approval for the annexation.

"Because the second parcel was purchased by the railroad to build stock pens, a scale, a shelter for passengers and freight, and a permanent station building, if warranted, it is not a 'right-of-way,'" she wrote.

Justice Kennedy also said the majority denied Norfolk its freedom to choose through its decision.

"With its expansive application of the term 'railroad right-of-way held in fee,' the majority deprives Norfolk of its freedom to choose in which governmental subdivision its property is to be located, and it fails to give effect to the intention of the legislature," she wrote.

She was joined in her opinion by Justice Patrick DeWine.

Justice Terrence O'Donnell dissented and noted that he would have affirmed the opinion of the appellate court.

House Panel Asks Housing Finance Agency About Demolition, Tax Credits

Lawmakers asked about demolition programs and the spread of tax credits around the state as Ohio Housing Finance Agency officials briefed a House panel Tuesday.

The questions came as the agency presented its annual report to the House Financial Institutions, Housing & Urban Development Committee.

OHFA Executive Director Sean Thomas said the agency saw an increase in its homebuyer program during Fiscal Year 2017, helping 4,296 Ohioans buy a home and partnering with 104 private lenders.

OHFA issued \$503 million in mortgage loans and 1,630 mortgage tax credits. The program is also able to offer down payment assistance, he said, which differentiates it from other homebuyer assistance programs.

The program assisted with loans in 79 counties in FY 2017, Mr. Thomas said.

OHFA issued \$35.7 million to land banks and removed 2,478 blighted properties, while helping 532 homeowners keep their homes through foreclosure prevention, he said.

The rental housing program financed 3,656 units of affordable housing.

Rep. Kent Smith (D-Euclid) asked about the number of demolitions done by the agency compared to the foreclosure assistance.

Mr. Thomas said the homebuyer assistance program was designed to be sustainable assistance. The agency did more foreclosure assistance a few years ago, but has moved more toward demolition as land banks have increased.

"As the economy has improved, we have seen sort of a lower demand for that and more demand for demolition in blighted areas," he said.

Rep. Smith asked for annual totals of homeowners assisted and demolitions for the past several years.

"We've heard that the foreclosure crisis is behind us, but I would say that's probably mostly homeowners that are affected," he said. "What we see more of now are zombie properties."

Mr. Thomas told Rep. Catherine Ingram (D-Cincinnati) that local officials, including those involved with land banks, decide if properties will be demolished or rehabilitated.

"It's really a local process and then we go out and inspect the units and make sure the demolition is done," he said.

Rep. Ingram said the agency should ensure land banks are getting feedback from the communities when they make these decisions.

Rep. Ron Young (R-Leroy) asked how the agency decides to target credits for rental housing units in different areas around the state.

"I'm just curious about how you're diversifying, if you will. How you're getting the word out to folks who may be in need," he said.

Mr. Thomas said they adjust where the credits go from year to year, and pools of funding are set aside for urban, suburban and rural areas.

Most of the properties funded under the tax credit program range from 50 to 100 units, so it can be difficult to put those in rural areas with lower demand, he said.

Mr. Thomas said the agency's operating budget for Fiscal Year 2018 is about \$17.3 million.

The agency's priorities for FY 2018 include expanding affordable housing opportunities, focusing on multi-sector solutions to promote public health and welfare and raise awareness of affordable housing programs.

Mr. Thomas also discussed OHFA's 2018 Housing Needs Assessment, which found nearly half of renters in Ohio have a cost burden, meaning they spend more than 30% of their income on rent. The report also looked at homelessness among students at local school districts, finding the problem is in both urban and rural districts.

Rep. Scott Wiggam (R-Wooster) asked about OHFA's relationship with the Ohio Housing Trust Fund and federal programs.

Mr. Thomas said the Development Services Agency handles the trust fund and most of the federal funding, but OHFA receives some of the funding through the trust fund.

"We try to coordinate with them on various programs when we can, but there's also a statewide planning effort that goes in," he said.

Ohio Business: Libbey, Diebold, TimkenSteel, More Report Financial Results; Vorys Announces Leadership Change

Libbey's net sales were down 4.8% in the third quarter to \$187.3 million, the company reported Tuesday.

It also reported a net loss of \$78.8 million, which was "driven by a \$79.7 million non-cash goodwill impairment charge associated with the Latin America segment," it's earnings report stated.

"Competitive pressures and challenging market conditions, as well as a handful of unusual weather-related events and natural disasters, hindered our performance during the quarter," CEO William Foley said.

"However, the improvements we expected to drive performance in the second half, such as improved profitability in EMEA and the launch of our e-commerce capabilities, began to materialize in the third quarter, and we look for them to contribute to a stronger fourth quarter."

Diebold: Revenue came in at \$1.1 billion in the third quarter, the company reported. GAAP earnings per share from continuing operations were -\$0.47 and operating profit was -\$7.6 million.

Earnings on a non-GAAP basis, meanwhile, were \$0.58 per share, and operating profit was \$82.4 million, or 7.3% operating margin.

TimkenSteel: Net sales significantly improved in the third quarter when compared to the same period last year, the company announced. Net sales were \$339.1 million, compared with \$213.8 million in 2016.

The company also reported a net loss of \$5.9 million, or -\$0.13 per share for the third quarter, compared with a net loss of \$22.2 million, or -\$0.50 per share in the same quarter last year.

Cooper Tire: Third-quarter net income was \$62 million, or \$1.18 per diluted share, the company reported.

Meanwhile, net sales in the quarter declined 2.3% to \$734 million when compared to the previous year's results, the Findlay company reported. Operating profit was \$101 million, or 13.8% of net sales, which is an increase of \$23 million from 2016.

Ohio Valley Bancorp: Net income in the third quarter increased to more than \$1.6 million, or \$0.35 per share, when compared to the \$348,000, or \$0.08 per share, the company reported last year.

For the nine months of 2017, net income totaled \$6.6 million, or \$1.61 per share, which is a 35% increase from the same period of 2016, the Gallipolis financial institution said.

Civista: The Sandusky financial institutions recorded third-quarter net-income of \$3.4 million, or \$0.29 per diluted share, compared with \$3.3 million, or \$0.34 per diluted share, for the prior year period.

For the nine-month period ended Sept. 30, Civista reported net income available to common shareholders of \$11 million or \$0.97 per diluted share, compared to \$12.4 million, or \$1.24 per diluted share, in 2016.

Leadership Change: Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP announced that Michael D. Martz will become a firm managing partner at the start of 2018.

Mr. Martz will become the firm's sixth managing partner when he steps in to fill the spot of Russell M. Gertmenian, who will retire at the end of this year after spending 45 years at the firm.

The firm said Mr. Gertmenian announced Mr. Martz as his successor internally in September 2016 and the two have spent the last year working to ensure a seamless transition.

"Michael made one of my most significant decisions at Vorys one of my simplest," Mr. Gertmenian said. "Over a period of about a year, I met with each of my partners prior to finalizing my choice. Throughout these conversations, I continually heard descriptions of Michael, his leadership style and his character that provided me the highest level of confidence. My optimism about Vorys and its future has never been greater."

Mr. Martz, an Upper Arlington resident, joined Vorys in 1991 after earning his law degree from the University of Wisconsin.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Thursday, November 2

Elections Commission, 77 S. High St., East B on the 31st floor, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, November 8

BWC Health Care Provider Quality Assurance Advisory Committee, Rm. 3, Level 2, 30 W. Spring St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, November 15

Waterways Safety Council, 3rd Fl., Bldg. c, 2045 Morse Rd., Columbus, 10 a.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Wednesday, November 1

Rep. Stephanie Howse (D-Cleveland) and Rep. Brigid Kelly (D-Cincinnati) news conference on equal pay task force bill, Ladies Gallery, Statehouse, Columbus, 9 a.m.

Tuesday, November 7

Rep. Scott Ryan (R-Newark) fundraiser, The Elks, 73 N. 3rd St., Newark, 5:30 p.m., (Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500; Friend: \$250; Couple: \$100; Individual: \$50 to Citizens for Scott Ryan)

Thursday, November 16

Rep. Andrew Brenner (R-Powell) fundraiser, Sugar Valley Farm, 2648 Troy Rd., Delaware, 6 p.m., (Host: \$5,000; Sponsor: \$2,500; Patrons: \$1000; Attendees: \$100 to Brenner for Ohio)

Tuesday, November 28

Rep. Dick Stein (R-Norwalk) and Rep. Robert Cupp (R-Lima) fundraiser, de Novo, 150 S. High Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Stein for State Representative and Cupp for State Representative Committee)